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1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6547129 B2	20030415	18	Check writing point of sale system	235/379	235/380
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6547078 B1	20030415		Automated mail extraction and remittance processing	209/539	209/584; 209/604; 209/900
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6543005 B1	20030401		Transmitting data reliably and efficiently	714/18	370/252
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6539372 B1	20030325		Method for providing automated user assistance customized output in the planning, configuration and management	707/3	707/2; 707/4
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6537213 B2	20030325		Animal health care, well-being and nutrition	600/300	119/174; 128/921; 128/923
6			US 6536037 B1	20030318		Identification of redundancies	717/151	703/2;

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1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6546376 B1	20030408	12	Electronic payment device using balanced binary tree and the method of the same	705/40	705/50; 705/75; 713/177
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6532450 B1	20030311		Financial management system including an offset payment process	705/40	
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6526409 B1	20030225		Data element characteristics	707/102	705/40
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5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US 6513042 B1	20030128		Internet test-making method	707/102	434/322; 434/327; 434/335; 434/350
6			US 6507826 B1	20030114		Remote electronic invoice entry	705/34	705/40

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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** 5,291,398**Hagan**[45] **Date of Patent:** Mar. 1, 1994[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING
FEDERALLY INSURED ANNUITY AND LIFE
INSURANCE INVESTMENTS**[76] **Inventor:** Bernard P. Hagan, 115
Commonwealth Ave., San
Francisco, Calif. 94118[21] **Appl. No.:** 911,401[22] **Filed:** Jul. 10, 1992[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** G06F 15/20[52] **U.S. Cl.** 364/408[58] **Field of Search** 364/408[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner—Roy N. Envall, Jr.*Assistant Examiner*—Ari M. Bai*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Robert C. Kain, Jr.[57] **ABSTRACT**

The method and system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring annuity funds includes identifying and storing annuity fund data, customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data. Banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds for a particular annuity beneficiary are

classified as non-available banking institutions for that beneficiary. The system sums all annuity funds identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposits issued by one of the banking institutions that is not classified as a non-available banking institution. If the sum exceeds the predetermined fund limit, that identified banking institution is classified as a non-available banking institution for that particular annuity beneficiary. The system then commands the transfer of all additional annuity funds identified with that single annuity beneficiary to another banking institution that is an available institution. In a preferred embodiment, the system generates various reports showing available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary, non-available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary, and the sum of all annuity funds for each respective annuity beneficiary that are provided by a corresponding customer. The method and system also stores and processes information regarding purchased certificates of deposit (CDs) and the due dates of those CDs such that when a particular CD becomes due and the principal is returned to the annuity company, the system declassifies the issuing banking institution from non-available to available for a particular annuity beneficiary or group of beneficiaries.

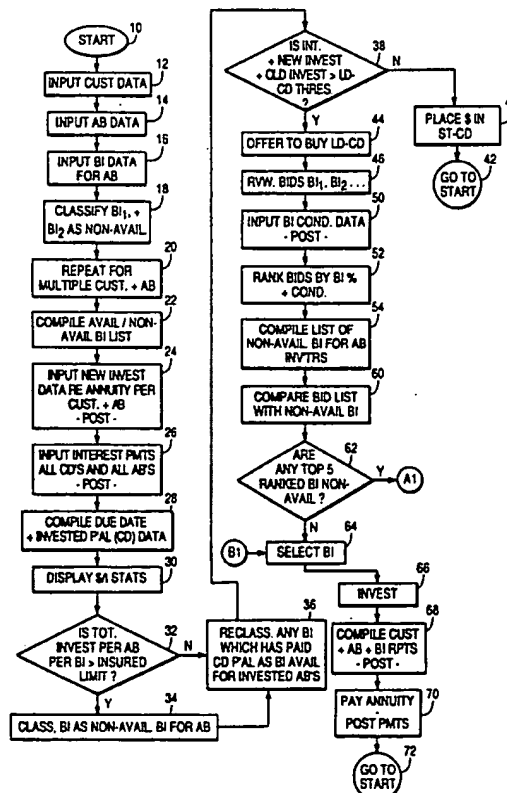
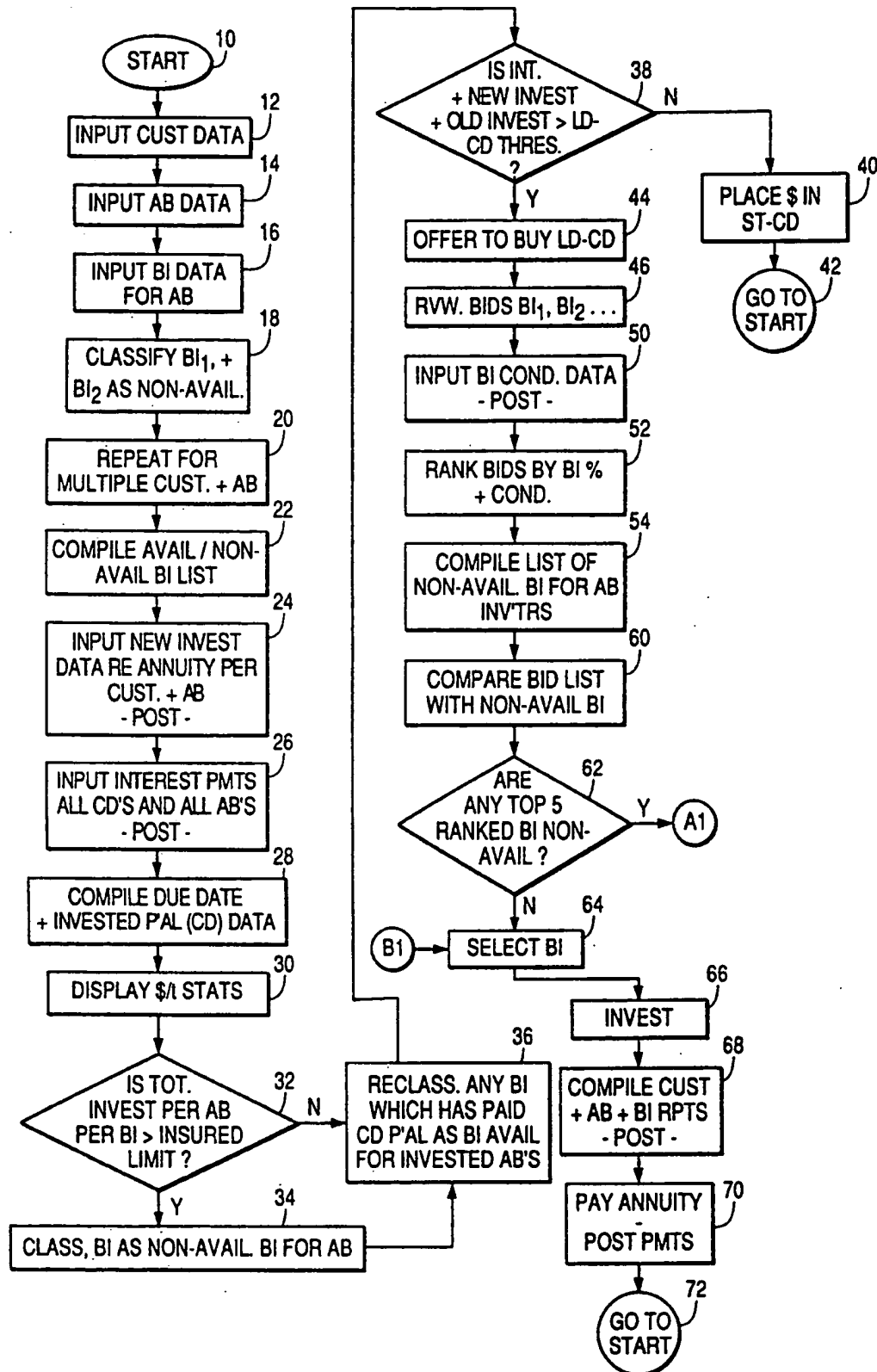
26 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

FIG. 1A



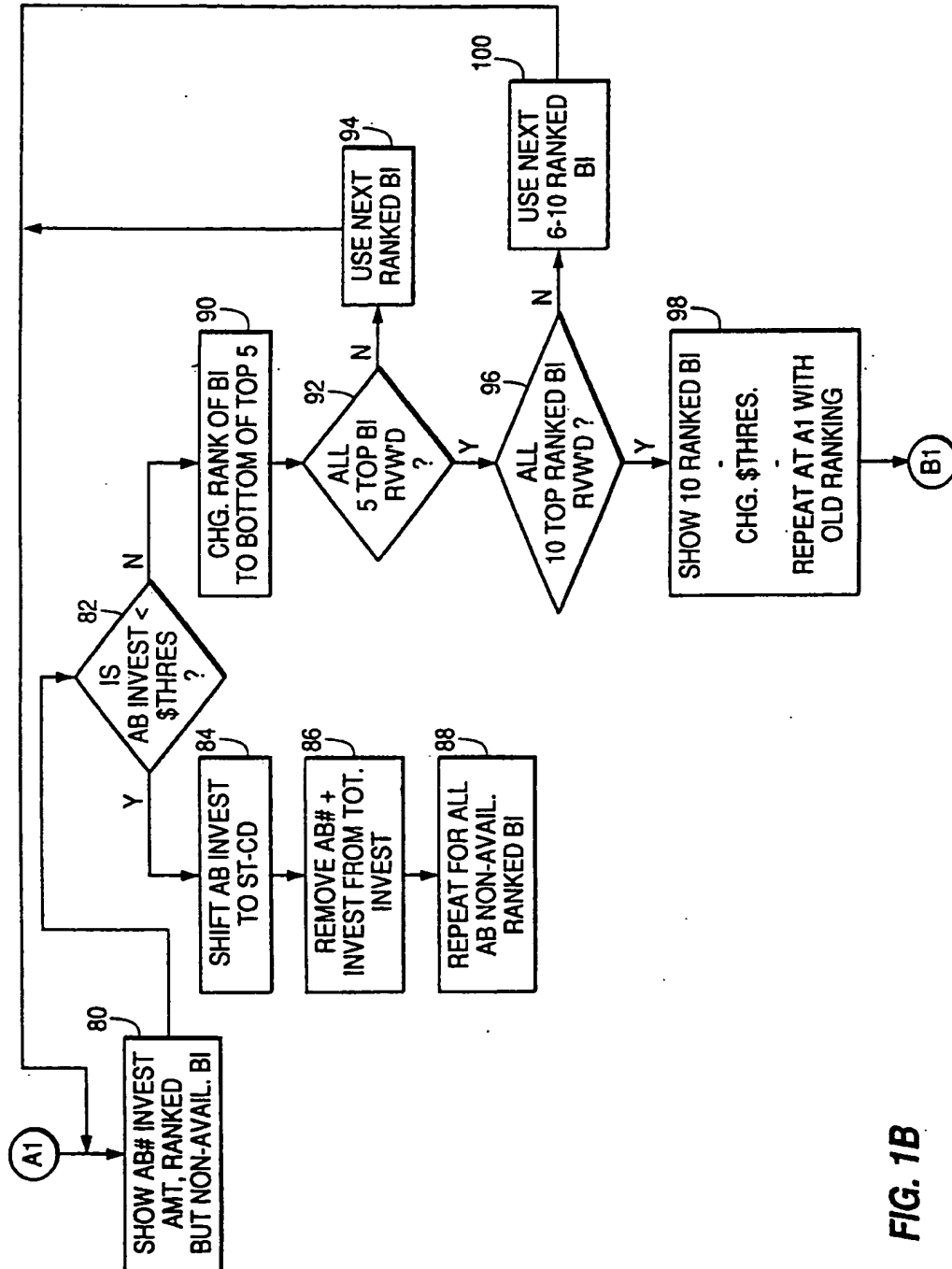
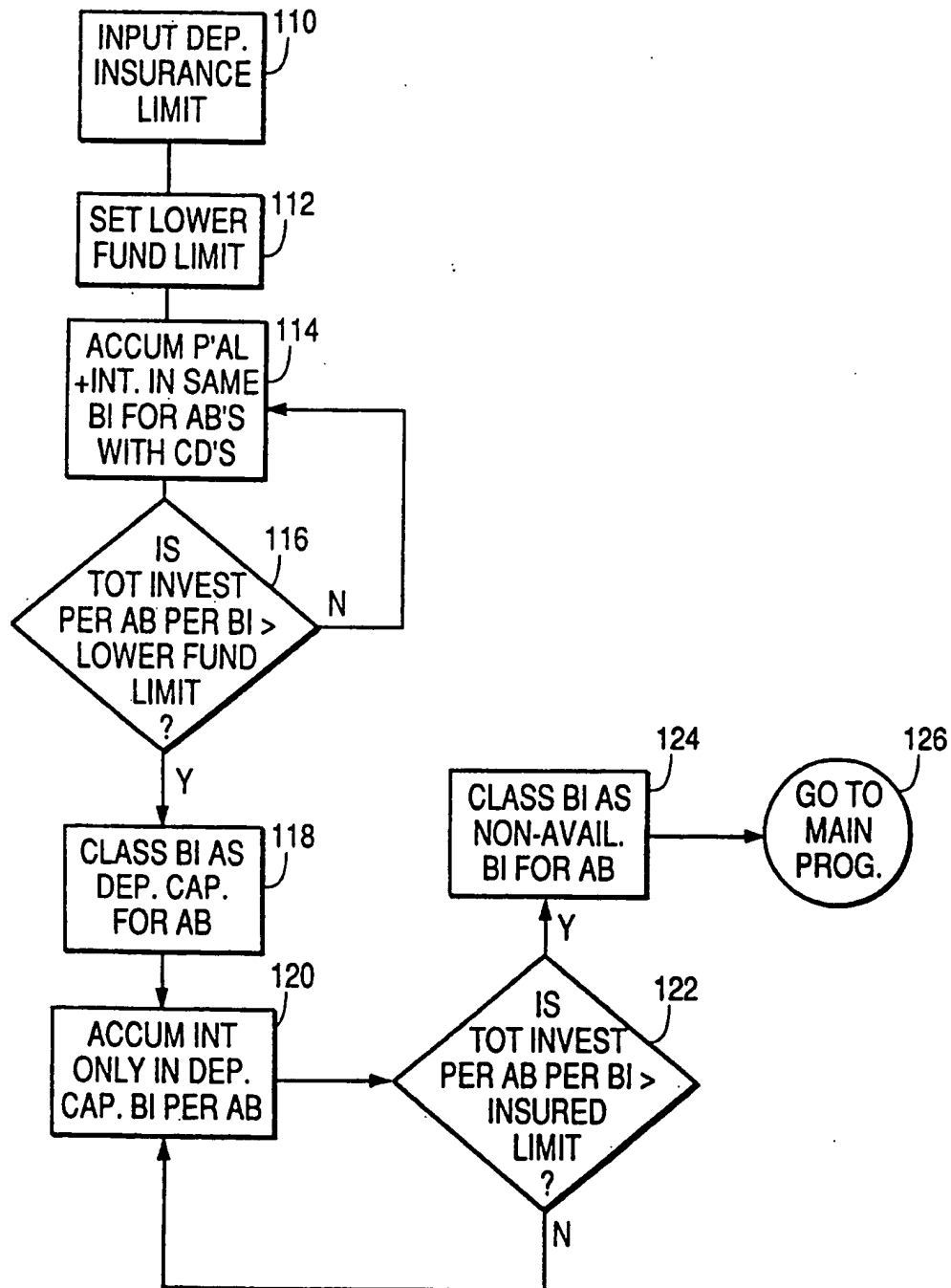


FIG. 1B

FIG. 2



METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING FEDERALLY INSURED ANNUITY AND LIFE INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and a system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds invested in a plurality of annuities or life insurance investments such that the invested funds are protected by depositor's insurance, such as FDIC insurance.

Federally approved banking institutions, banks and savings and loans, pay premiums to the federal government such that money on deposit in those banking institutions is federally insured. If the banking institution becomes insolvent for any reason, the federal government pays the depositor for any losses up to an established insured limit. At present, deposits are insured up to \$100,000.00. There is a regulation which provides that funds deposited by life insurance companies or a corporation solely to fund life insurance or annuity contracts will be insured up to the depositor's insurance limit (\$100,000.00) per individual (annuitant) entitled to receive benefits under the contract. The persons entitled to receive benefits under an annuity contract are called herein "annuity beneficiaries" whether those persons are legally classified as annuitants or as beneficiaries. An annuity contract is a contract that pays an annuity beneficiary an amount at regular intervals or pays an annuity beneficiary a lump sum at a predetermined time in the future. The annuity contract is funded or provided for by a customer. Essentially, the customer pays a certain amount of money to a company, the company invests that money, and the company at a certain time in the future or at regular intervals pays the annuity beneficiary a prescribed amount as required under the annuity contract. Annuity beneficiaries are sometimes called "annuitants."

Some types of annuity contracts are deferred annuity contracts. Deferred annuity contracts allow funds to be accumulated on a tax deferred basis over the term of the contract and pay a lump sum or make periodic payments to annuitants at a certain time in the future. For example, a customer may fund a deferred annuity and, upon retirement of the customer, the company holding the annuity pays the customer either a lump sum or periodic payments as selected by the annuitant. In this example, the contract is annuitized upon retirement of the customer. If the contract is surrendered during early years, there are surrender penalties. If there are partial withdrawals, penalties sometimes apply. Interest if withdrawn is reportable as income in the year of withdrawal.

In order to obtain the benefit of the depositor's insurance, the corporation holding the annuity must establish an internal account for the annuity beneficiary and place the funds on deposit with a federally approved institution (FDIC institution) in the corporation's own name. However, the corporation can accumulate and combine investments for a number of annuity beneficiaries and invest that aggregate sum with a single banking institution. The regulations provide that, in the event the banking institution becomes insolvent, the federal agency providing the depositors' insurance will pay the company for losses sustained by a particular

annuity beneficiary provided those losses do not exceed the established depositor's insurance limit value.

Tax deferred annuities are presently being marketed throughout the United States by life insurance companies. Tax law presently allows interest earnings in tax deferred annuity accounts to accumulate tax free until withdrawn. Consequently, this form of annuity has become a popular investment, particularly for those saving for their retirement years. However, funds invested in deferred annuities are not federally insured. There have been losses suffered by purchasers of annuities due to the inability of some insurance companies to remain solvent. This is particularly devastating for anyone depending on annuity income for support during retirement years. It would be a great benefit if the features of tax deferred annuities could be combined with federal deposit insurance.

Funds deposited in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) banks solely to fund annuities or life insurance contracts are currently insured up to \$100,000.00 for each annuitant. Present FDIC regulations permit this to be done. A system that enables life insurance and annuity companies to place annuity funds or life insurance funds so as to be covered by federal deposit insurance without exceeding those limitations and which continually monitors accounts for the same purpose, performs a valuable service for the customer.

Individuals that presently have funds in banks can maintain their deposits in different categories of legal ownership which makes it possible to have more than \$100,000.00 insurance coverage in a single institution.

This is true only if the funds are owned and deposited in different ownership categories. Individuals almost always monitor their deposits in savings institutions so as to maintain full insurance coverage at all times. However, if such individuals purchase a tax deferred annuity that is to be deposited in an insured institution, the responsibility to monitor such funds as to their insurability shifts to the insurance or annuity company. A problem immediately arises since a multi-state life insurance company collecting premiums from thousands of contract holders throughout the U.S. could inadvertently fund an annuitant's contract by depositing funds in an institution in which the annuitant already has a standard deposit, savings account or certificate of deposit. If the funds deposited by the insurance company and the already existing account in that same institution are maintained in the same category of legal ownership, FDIC regulations require that the insured limit must be applied to the combined total amount held within each category. This could result in funds being without insurance coverage. This would be a violation of the contract on the part of the insurance or annuity company that promised to place the funds so as to be federally insured. Given that a multiplicity of insurance companies would be depositing funds in a multiplicity of banks involving annuity accounts from thousands of customers, a system needs to be devised that would safeguard annuity purchasers from the risk of uninsured accounts, and which would enable insurance companies to meet their contractual obligations. Such a system must also periodically monitor accounts focusing on the impact of interest additions to all accounts and the impact thereof as it relates to insurance limits.

FDIC insurance > \$100K

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and a system for processing transactional data

and monitoring funds of a plurality of annuities whereby the funds are fully protected by depositor's insurance.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and a system which monitors the value of each annuity beneficiary's fund placed in each banking institution such that the total amount of funds, both principal and interest, in each banking institution are less than a predetermined insured fund limit.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and a system which classifies banking institutions as being non-available institutions when the annuity fund in a respective institution for a particular annuity beneficiary exceeds the insured fund limit.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a method and a system which transfers funds in excess of the insured limit to another available banking institution.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The method and system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring annuity funds includes identifying and storing annuity fund data, customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data. Banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds for a particular annuity beneficiary are classified as non-available banking institutions for that beneficiary. The system sums all annuity funds identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposits issued by one of the banking institutions that is not classified as a non-available banking institution. If the sum exceeds the predetermined fund limit, that identified banking institution is classified as a non-available banking institution for that particular annuity beneficiary. The system then commands the transfer of all additional annuity funds identified with that single annuity beneficiary to another banking institution that is an available institution.

In a preferred embodiment, the system generates various reports showing available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary, non-available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary, and the sum of all annuity funds for each respective annuity beneficiary that are provided by a corresponding customer. The method and system also stores and processes information regarding purchased certificates of deposit (CDs) and the due dates of those CDs such that when a particular CD becomes due and the principal is returned to the investment annuity company, the system declassifies the issuing banking institution from non-available to available for a particular annuity beneficiary or group of beneficiaries.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Further objects and advantages of the present invention can be found in the detailed description of the preferred embodiments when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGS. 1A and 1B diagrammatically illustrate the method and system for processing transactional data for annuities; and

FIG. 2 diagrammatically illustrates a method and system permitting the accumulation of interest in a particular banking institution.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention relates to a method and a system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds invested in a plurality of annuities in order to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions.

FIGS. 1A and 1B show the method and processing system, in diagrammatic flow chart form, which accomplish the objects and advantages set forth above.

The program starts in FIG. 1A at start step 10. In step 12, customer data is input into the system. This customer data may be kept as a customer record that includes the customer's name, address, customer identification number, social security number, and identifiers for each annuity contract funded or provided by the customer. The term "annuity beneficiary" as used herein covers any category of ownership in which an annuity contract can be held including individual accounts, joint accounts, various trust accounts, and any other legal form of ownership. For example, customer 1 may have annuity #1 which designates a single individual who will receive money when the contract is annuitized. That individual is classified herein as annuity beneficiary AB₁. AB₁ may be the customer himself or herself. The customer may also have a second annuity contract, annuity #2, which is held in joint names, e.g., husband and wife. This joint ownership is classified herein as a single annuity beneficiary AB₁₀. The system described herein incorporates this concept.

In step 14, information is input into the system regarding each annuity beneficiary AB. Table 1 below shows an exemplary annuity beneficiary record.

TABLE 1

Initial Annuity Beneficiary Record

40	AB Name, Add., AB# (e.g., AB ₁)
	B.I. data
	AB ₁ —BI ₁ is checking and savings
	AB ₁ —BI ₂ is savings—unqualified annuity
	BI ₁ and BI ₂ classified as non-available for AB ₁
45	In Table 1, the name, address, and identification number have been assigned to annuity beneficiary AB ₁ . In addition, AB ₁ may have checking and savings accounts at a banking institution (BI) which is designated as BI ₁ . Annuity beneficiary AB ₁ may also have a savings account such as a certificate of deposit (CD) is another banking institution BI ₂ . This CD held by BI ₂ may be part of an unqualified annuity fund. The use of the term "unqualified" herein does not refer to whether the beneficiary obtains the benefit of special tax considerations but rather refers to an annuity that is not immediately protectable under depositor's insurance program as monitored by the present invention. In a preferred embodiment, banking institutions BI ₁ and BI ₂ are as classified as non-available banking institutions for annuity beneficiary AB ₁ .
60	

Step 16 involves inputting banking institution BI data for each annuity beneficiary AB. Step 18 classifies the banking institution as available or non-available. For example, with respect to beneficiary AB₁, banking institutions BI₁ and BI₂ are classified as non-available. Step 20 involves repeating the inputting and classifying steps 12, 14, 16 and 18 for multiple customers and annuity beneficiaries. Step 22 compiles a matrix or list of bank-

ing institutions which are available and non-available. Table 2 below provides an exemplary list.

TABLE 2

BI #	Banking Institution Matrix		CONDITION
	AVAIL	NON-AVAIL	
BI ₁	AB _{2,3,4,n}	AB ₁	A
BI ₂	AB _{3,4,n}	AB _{1,2}	A
BI ₃	AB _{3,n}	AB _{2,4}	A
BI ₄	AB _{1,2,3,n}	AB ₄	B
BI ₅	AB _{1,3,4,n}	AB ₂	A
BI ₆	AB _{1,2,4,n}	AB ₃	C
BI ₇	—	—	A
BI _n	AB _{1,...,n-1}	AB _n	A

Table 2 generally shows banking institutions BI₁ through BI_n and whether that institution is available for certain beneficiaries and not available for other beneficiaries. Additionally, the banking institution matrix shows the condition of the bank (A-E) which is directly related to the capital/debt ratio of the bank as well as other factors. An A quality bank is the highest rated bank. These ratings are known in the banking industry. Since a high quality financial product is provided by the present system, annuity funds invested in conjunction with the present system will normally be invested in only top quality banks. As stated earlier, the term "banking institution" includes all federally approved banks and savings and loans. These banking institutions must offer depositors deposit insurance which protects depositors' funds up to a predetermined insurance limit. The banking institution matrix, Table 2, shows that institution BI₁ can be used as an available institution by annuity beneficiaries AB₂, AB₃, AB₄, and AB_n. In contrast, institution BI₁ is classified as non-available for annuity beneficiary AB₁. This initial classification of banking institutions and identification of the annuity beneficiaries' banking institutions may be necessary in order to insure that, in the event of failure of that particular banking institution, the entire annuity fund invested for each beneficiary using the present system is fully insured. If an annuity beneficiary has bought a CD from a particular banking institution or otherwise has funds on deposit and that information has not been entered into the system, the federal deposit insurance may not cover both the investment made under the annuity fund provided by the present system and the independent investment by the annuity beneficiary. In order to provide a high degree of security, the present system gathers initial information regarding the banks used by annuity beneficiaries and classifies those banking institutions as non-available for the protected annuity monitored by the system. As can be seen in Table 2, institution BI₇ is available for all annuity beneficiaries since there are no beneficiaries who use that institution. Additionally, BI₇ is rated as an A institution.

In step 24, information regarding new investments is input into the system. These new investments could be initial investments by the customer to fund an annuity or could be periodic payments by the customer to fund the annuity. These new investments are posted both to the customer records as well as to the annuity beneficiary records. This dual posting is necessary because the customer will want a full accounting of all payments made into his or her annuity fund and the funds associated with each particular annuity beneficiary must be completely and accurately monitored in order to insure that each annuity beneficiary is protected under the federal depositors' insurance program. As stated earlier, the deposit insurance runs to the annuity contract

owner, and the beneficiary may or may not be the customer. For example, a husband may fund an annuity for the benefit of his wife. In that case, the annuity beneficiary (annuitant/contract owner) would be the customer's wife. If the annuity investment or accumulated income plus the principal exceeds \$100,000.00 in any particular banking institution (the current regulatory limit for deposits' insurance), the wife's insurable interest would be capped at \$100,000.00. Accordingly, it is important to account for all investments made by the customers to fund one or more annuities and also to carefully account and monitor the value of each annuity contract and post that value to an annuity beneficiary record.

In step 26, data is input into the system to post all interest payments made by all institutions on certificates of deposit purchased from those institutions. These interest payments are collected for the benefit of particular annuity beneficiaries. As stated earlier, the company holding the annuity simply establishes an internal account for each annuity beneficiary. The company purchases one or more CDs sold by one or more banking institutions. As long as the internal accounts by the annuity company are not subject to claims by the company's creditors and are specifically designated for the benefit of an annuity beneficiary, the regulations regarding depositor's insurance provide that the annuity beneficiary's investment in a CD or other depository account of a particular banking institution is protected up to the insurable limit.

In step 28, the system compiles due date information for each CD, that is, the principal invested in the CD, the interest generated thereby, and the term of the CD and the interest payment dates. Step 30 involves displaying a money versus time statistic chart. In order to assist the investment manager, it is helpful to know when one or more CDs are coming due, the total investment in the CDs, and all interest payments that have been received or will be received from various banking institutions. This statistical money versus time chart will enable the investment manager to plan both short term and long term CD investments and match those investments with available aggregate funds. Of course, these aggregate funds include new customer annuity investments.

Decision step 32 determines whether the total investment for each annuity beneficiary in each banking institutions exceeds or is greater than an insured limit. The insured limit may be either the actual, government established, depositor's insurance limit value or may be another, lower predetermined insured limit established by the system operator. For example, the current established depositor's limit value is set at \$100,000.00. The system operator may, in order increase the security of the funds, set a lower limit at \$90,000.00. In any event, a decision is made in step 32 to determine whether a total investment, both principal and interest, for each annuity beneficiary in each banking institution exceeds the insured limit. If the insured limit per AB and per BI exceeds the insured limit, the YES branch is taken and in step 34, that particular banking institution is classified as non-available (NON-AVAIL) for that particular annuity beneficiary. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 32, that is, the insured limit has not been exceeded by the total investment per AB and per BI, step 36 requires re-classification of any banking institution that has returned or paid a CD as an available (AVAIL)

banking institution for all annuity beneficiaries who had designated funds in that CD. Step 36 also follows step 34.

Next, decision step 38 determines whether the interest, input in step 26, the new investments paid by a customer, input in step 24, plus the old investments from redeemed CDs exceed a large denomination certificate of deposit (LD-CD) threshold. Generally, an LD-CD is a CD of \$5,000,000.00 or higher having a term of at least three years. Historically, these time deposits have a much higher rate of return as compared to individually purchased, smaller denomination short term CDs. If the threshold is not exceeded, the NO branch is taken and in step 40, the total investment is placed in short term CDs (ST-CD). In step 42, the system returns to start step 10. The LD-CD threshold may be set by the system operator, for example, at \$10,000,000.00.

In order to better understand the present invention, Tables 3 and 4 below show the investment matrix or list and an expanded annuity beneficiary record. With respect to the investment matrix, and as an example, banking institution BI₇ has sold a large denomination certificate of deposit to the annuity or insurance company. The LD-CD is a \$10,000,000.00 CD which falls due in seven years. This \$10,000,000.00 was invested by the annuity company at time t₁. Interest is paid quarterly on the LD-CD at X % and the interest is automatically placed in a short term (ST-CD) having a three month maturity and paying interest at X-2.0%. The withdrawal penalty on the ST-CD is 0.25% interest.

TABLE 3

		Investment Matrix								
	TIME	CD	AB ₁	AB ₂	AB ₃	...	AB ₉	...	AB _n	Total
<u>BI/BI₇</u>										
BI ₈	t ₁	LD ₁	90K	45K	72K		—		10K	10M
		ST	—	—	—		—		—	—
	t ₂	LD ₁	90K	45K	72K		—		10K	10M
		ST ₁	10K	5K	7.5K		—		1.2K	23.7K
	t ₃	LD ₁	90K	45K	72K		—		10K	10M
		ST ₂	10K	10K	15K		80K		2.4K	117.4K
	t ₃	ST ₃	11K	—	—		—		—	11K

The investment matrix, Table 3, shows that at time t₁, the company operating the present system has invested in long term CD LD₁ and various annuity beneficiaries have accounts associated with or designating that LD₁. For example, annuity beneficiary AB₁ has \$90,000.00 invested (90K). Beneficiary AB₃ has invested \$72,000.00 (72K). Annuity beneficiary AB₉ has not invested in LD₁ at time t₁. Annuity beneficiary AB_n has invested \$10,000.00 (10K). At time t₁, there is no short term (ST) CD issued by institution BI₇. At time t₂, which is the first quarterly interest payment date for LD₁, each annuity beneficiary has the same amount of principal designated for LD₁. However, according to the terms of the agreement with institution BI₇, a second, short term CD, ST₁, has been opened into which all the interest from LD₁ is swept. Accordingly, the records of the company issuing the federally insured annuities show that annuity beneficiary AB₁ has a designated 10K in CD ST₁ issued by institution BI₇, beneficiary AB₂ has 5K invested in ST₁, and beneficiary AB_n has 1.2K invested in that CD. At time t₃, which is the second quarterly payment date for LD₁, the interest has been rolled over into a second short term CD, ST₂. However, because beneficiary AB₁ is at the government insured limit of \$100,000.00, his or her allocation has been shifted to a second banking institution BI₈ and placed in short

term CD deposit ST₃. Accordingly, AB₁ has a designated investment of \$11,000.00 (11K) in short term CD ST₃ sold by institution BI₈ as well as a 10K designated investment in ST₂ at institution BI₇. The other beneficiaries AB₂, AB₃, and AB_n, have had their interest payments rolled directly over into short term CD ST₂. The investment by or for beneficiary AB₉, that is 80K, is a new investment by the customer funding that particular annuity contract. Accordingly, annuity beneficiary AB₁ has reached the insured limit in institution BI₇ and BI₇ is then classified as a non-available banking institution for annuity beneficiary AB₁. However, BI₇ is still classified as available for AB₂, AB₃, AN_n and AB₉, although AB₉ is near the predetermined insurance limit of \$100,000.00.

Table 4 which follows shows an expanded annuity beneficiary record.

TABLE 4

Expanded Annuity Beneficiary Record

Basic Data

Cust1: Annuity #1: AB₁

NON-AVAIL. BI = BI_{1,2} note: checking and savings BIs

NON-AVAIL. BI = B₇ note: maximum reached at t₃

Investment Data

BI #	Inst'mt #	Invest		Est. Int.	Period	Due Date
		Date	P'al			
BI ₇	LD ₁	t ₁	90K	10K	Qtrly	t ₁ + 7 yrs
BI ₇	ST ₁	t ₂	10K	1K	Qtrly	t ₂ + 3 mths
BI ₈	ST ₂	t ₃	11K	1.01K	Qtrly	t ₃ + 3 mths

The basic record includes customer data, that is, who is funding the annuity, and annuity contract identifier (annuity #1) and an annuity beneficiary identifier (AB₁). The basic record also includes a record of non-available institutions, BI₁ and BI₂ and includes a remark stating that those institutions are checking and savings for AB₁. Institution BI₇ which was classified as non-available at time t₃ due to the level of funds in that designated institution. The expanded annuity beneficiary record also includes investment records. The investment record is broken down into banking institution BI₇ and BI₈, includes instrument numbers CD#, initial investment dates t₁, t₂ and t₃, principal investments made in those particular CDs, estimated interest payments, the interest due dates, and the CD due date. The investment record for each particular annuity beneficiary can also be used as certificate of deposit data for compiling the money and time statistics in step 30. If, for example, a significant influx of new investments was gathered by the system operator (450K) and interest of 50K was available in two weeks and if a 500K short term CD was available in three weeks, the system operator may choose to pay the interest penalty on the 500K short term CD and purchase a large denomination CD

(\$1,000,000.00) at the time the interest is paid by the other banking institution in two weeks. In the interim, the initial 450K investment could be placed in a short term CD.

In step 44, the system operator places an offer to buy a large denomination CD (LD-CD). These large denomination CDs are sometimes called bank investment contracts. In step 46, the system operator reviews the bids placed by the various banking institutions BI₁, BI₂ for the large denomination CD. These bids would include all terms associated with the CD including principal amount, number of years, interest due on the principal, and time for interest payments.

In step 50, the banking institution or another third party information provider inputs information relative to the condition of the banking institution, that is, A, B, C, D, or E or other known classifications. The condition of the banking institution is directly related to the capital/debt ratio. Since large amounts of money are placed with a particular institution, the capital/debt ratio may play an important role in determining the ranking of the institutions and the top qualifying bids therefrom. In step 52, the various bids and, more importantly, the banking institutions are rated from high to low. The investment manager or the system operator may work with the system in order to rank the various bids. In step 54, a list of non-available banking institutions is compiled for all annuity beneficiary investors who will participate in the LD-CD investment. Table 4, the expanded annuity beneficiary record, shows non-available banks BI₁, BI₂ and BI₇ associated with annuity beneficiary AB₁.

In step 60, a comparison is made between the bid list, the beneficiaries designated to invest and the non-available banking institutions associated therewith. Step 62 is a decision step which determines whether any of the top five ranked banking institutions are classified as non-available for all annuity beneficiaries who will invest in the designated CDs offered by the top five institutions. Assuming that all top five institutions are not classified as non-available, that is they are available, step 64 involves selection of one of the top five bids. Step 66 commands the investment of the money into the selected banking institution and particularly the purchase of the large denomination, relatively long term CD.

In step 68, a compilation of customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data is prepared. Reports are generated and posted. For example, customers will want to know the total investments directed to a particular annuity contract, the value of the annuity contract account, the interest generated by that account, and may be concerned regarding the insurance protection offered under this system. Accordingly, a report showing the non-available banks for a particular annuity beneficiary may be prepared for each customer. In any event, the investment manager for the system should use a listing of non-available as well as available banking institutions in order to properly invest the funds. In step 70, the system pays money to beneficiaries under annuitized contracts or redeems contracts that have been canceled. These payments are posted and the appropriate notations are made in the customer records, annuity beneficiary records and investment matrices. Of course, certain institutions would be reclassified as available if beneficiary funds therein dropped below the insured level. Step 72 returns the program to its beginning, start step 10.

Returning to decision step 62, the YES branch goes from jump point A1 in FIG. 1A to jump point A1 in FIG. 1B. Step 80 shows the beneficiary ID, AB#, the investment amount for that beneficiary and the ranked but non-available banking institution. This is a result of the decision step 62 determining that one or more of the top five ranked banking institutions have been designated as non-available for one or more beneficiaries. Of course, rather than ranking five institutions in step 62, ten institutions could be ranked and analyzed in step 80. Five institutions are ranked herein as an example. Following step 80, decision step 82 determines whether the particular investment for a particular annuity beneficiary is less than a dollar threshold value (\$THRES). The YES branch from decision step 82 enters step 84. If the investment for a particular annuity beneficiary is small, for example the investment in short term deposit ST₂ for annuity beneficiary AB₁ in Table 3, 2.4K, the 2.4K investment is shifted to a short term CD. Alternatively, the small investment for the annuity beneficiary can be placed on deposit with any institution that is classified as available. The funds need not be placed in a time deposit (i.e., CD) to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance. However, it would be prudent to use CDs rather than designate checking or savings accounts due to the higher return on investment. Step 86 removes the beneficiary's investment from the large denomination CD investment. This enables the system to use the top ranked institution for all beneficiaries except AB₁. Step 88 repeats steps 80, 82, 84, 86 for all annuity beneficiaries having designated funds and non-available classifications for the ranked banking institutions.

If the NO branch from decision step 82 is taken, in step 90, the ranking of the banking institutions is changed. For example, if AB₉ having a deposit of 80K is larger than the money threshold used in step 82, (see Table 3), it is beneficial to change the ranking of the top five banking institutions such that the top ranked institution is placed at the bottom of the five stacked institutions. Decision step 92 determines whether all five banking institutions have been reviewed. If not, the NO branch is taken and in step 94, the next ranked banking institution is used and steps 80 and 82 are repeated. Of course, if the next ranked banking institution is not designated as non-available by any annuity beneficiaries, the program would jump to step 64, the select banking institution in FIG. 1A.

If the YES branch is taken from decision step 92, decision step 96 determines whether all top ten ranked banking institutions have been reviewed. If all ten ranked institutions have been reviewed resulting in all ten institutions classified as non-available and having substantial beneficiary participation in the LD-CD, the YES branch is taken and step 98 shows the top ten ranked institutions, prompts the system operator to change the money threshold (\$THRES) in decision step 82, and repeats the process beginning at jump point A1 with the old ranking. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 96, that is, not all top ten institutions have been reviewed, step 100 uses the next group of five ranked institutions, that is institutions six through ten. The program returns to step 80 which shows whether institutions six through ten are designated as non-available by any annuity beneficiary. This process continues until a particular banking institution is selected and jump point B1 returns to select institution step 64 in FIG. 1A. Other automated selection routines could be used to select institutions.

The system may be modified such that interest paid by a particular banking institution based upon a first CD investment is automatically swept into a second CD investment at the same bank. In this modified system, two limits are set, a lower fund limit which designates a banking institution as an deposit capped institution, and an insured limit which ultimately is used to classify the banking institution as non-available. FIG. 2 diagrammatically shows this aspect of the system. In step 110, data is input into the system regarding the government established, depositor's insurance limit value. Step 112 establishes a lower fund limit which is less than the depositor's insurance limit value. In step 114, the interest and principal are accumulated in the same banking institution for all annuity beneficiaries having designated CDs in that particular institution. The interest is preferably swept into a CD. However, if the interest is swept into any type of deposit account at the institution, whether a time deposit or other account, the annuity beneficiary obtains the benefit of depositor's insurance. This feature of using other types of deposit accounts is encompassed by the present system. Decision 116 determines whether the total investment for each annuity beneficiary for that particular banking institution exceeds the lower fund limit. The NO branch from decision step 116 returns to step 114, accumulate principal and interest in the same BI. At this point, new investments can be posted to the BI for the beneficiary.

The YES branch from decision step 116 enters step 118 which classifies the particular banking institution as deposit capped for a particular annuity beneficiary. For example, the investment manager of the system should know that a large investment by a particular annuity beneficiary in a particular CD will generate a certain amount of interest over a certain period of time. For example, a \$50,000.00 investment in a large denomination, seven year CD may generate \$50,000.00 in interest over the total term of the CD. If a particular annuity beneficiary designates \$50,000.00 as an initial investment in that CD, that banking institution would be classified as deposit capped (the lower fund limit set at \$50,000.00) and all interest assigned to that annuity beneficiary would be swept into short term and possibly long term CDs with that particular banking institution. All CDs would mature on or before the seven year maturity date of the large denomination CD with the institution. In this instance, the lower fund limit would be set at \$50,000.00.

Step 120 follows step 118 and only interest is accumulated in the deposit capped banking institutions for the particular annuity beneficiary. In other words, no new principal investments would be made for that beneficiary in that particular banking institution. Decision step 122 follows step 120 and a determination is made whether the total investment per annuity beneficiary in each banking institution exceeds the insured limit. The insured limit is set at \$100,000.00. The NO branch returns to accumulate interest step 120. The YES branch leads to step 124 which classifies the particular banking institution as a non-available institution for the particular annuity beneficiary. Step 124 leads to jump step 126 GO BACK TO MAIN PROGRAM. The main program would be entered at any convenient point, possibly immediately before step 32.

Although the example provided herein regarding the large denomination CD involves rolling over the interest in a short term CD, it is most likely that under the terms of the LD-CD, the interest would be allowed to

accumulate with the principal and such interest would be compounded with the principal. The interest rate on the accumulated fund would be the interest rate for the LD-CD.

The present invention can be used for monitoring annuity funds for any type of annuity. For example, some annuity contracts provide for an initial large payment, for example \$1,000,000.00, which would be deposited in at least ten institutions under the present system, and the annuity pays periodically, for example quarterly, \$30,000.00 to the annuity beneficiary. Another type of annuity funds a retirement plan for the annuity beneficiary. When the annuity beneficiary reaches retirement age, at age 65, the annuity contract may be annuitized and a lump sum payment or other payment plan is made to the annuity beneficiary. The annuity beneficiary may decide to receive periodic payments for a number of years rather than a lump sum. This retirement annuity is called a deferred annuity. The deferred annuity has certain tax advantages such that interest accumulated on the principal is accumulated tax free. If the principal or interest are withdrawn from a deferred annuity before retirement age, there are adverse tax consequences associated with such withdrawal.

The order of the steps set forth above is only exemplary. For example, the pay annuity step 70 may precede the display money and time statistics step 30. The classification of banks, steps 32, 34 and 36 can precede step 60. These modifications fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The present system has been described as monitoring annuity funds deposited in federally approved banking institutions. However, the government regulations also provide insurance for funds deposited in such institutions in accordance with a life insurance program. As is known, a life insurance contract, funded by a customer, customarily provides that, upon death of a named individual, the life insurance company will pay one or more named life insurance beneficiaries. Whole life insurance contracts permit the customer or a named individual to withdraw money from the life insurance fund or borrow against the fund before the death of the named individual. The life insurance beneficiary and the person entitled to withdraw or borrow against the life insurance fund (the policy owner) is called herein a "life insurance designee." The government regulations provide that funds deposited in a federally approved banking institution by a life insurance company under a life insurance contract for the benefit of a life insurance designee are insured by depositor's insurance up to the established government insurance limit. Accordingly, the present system described above with respect to FIGS. 1A, 1B and 2 can be easily adopted by a life insurance company to reap the benefits of depositor's insurance. Rather than monitoring annuity beneficiaries, the system monitors life insurance designees' institutions and life insurance designees' funds deposited in the approved and available banking institutions. The claims appended hereto are meant to cover this alternate embodiment of the present invention.

The claims appended hereto are meant to cover modifications and changes within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of cus-

tomers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically identifying, inputting and storing annuity fund data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

electronically classifying and labeling all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary with a non-available banking institutions label for each respective annuity beneficiary after the step of identifying;

electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not labeled as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying and electronically labeling said one banking institution with said non-available banking institution label for said single annuity beneficiary;

electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to a certificate of deposit issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not labeled as a non-available banking institution; and,

electronically determining the excess funds over said insured fund limit, classifying and electronically labeling the banking institution as non-available, and commanding and electronically ordering the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying and storing includes identifying and storing annuity fund data, which describes each annuity fund that is established for the benefit of each annuity beneficiary; wherein said associated customer data identifies the person funding the annuity; wherein said annuity beneficiary data identifies the beneficiary of the annuity; and wherein said banking institution data, identifies all banking institutions holding said annuity funds for respective annuity beneficiaries.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

establishing said predetermined insured limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the step of identifying includes the step of identifying annuity funds as qualified annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds wherein said qualified annuity funds are protectable under said depositor's insurance and said unqualified annuity funds are not protectable under said depositor's insurance.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4 including the step of electronically maintaining and producing, prior to a pooled investment, a list of available banking institutions, which have not been classified as non-available

banking institutions, and a list of non-available labeled banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the step of determining whether the sum of all annuity funds exceeds said predetermined insured limit includes the step of summing all interest payments made on annuity funds and designated for said one banking institution.

7. A method as claimed in claim 5 including the steps of electronically identifying and storing certificate of deposit data along with said annuity fund data, said certificate of deposit data including information relative to a due date of respective certificates of deposit, and including the step of electronically declassifying a respective banking institution from non-available to available when a corresponding certificate of deposit is due.

8. A computer-based method for electronically processing and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, annuity beneficiary data, annuity fund data, and banking institution data;

via said computer system:

(a) electronically identifying and storing data describing each annuity fund, held for the benefit of each annuity beneficiary, and associated customer data, representing the person funding the annuity, annuity beneficiary data, representing the beneficiary of the annuity, and banking institution data, representing all banking institutions holding said annuity funds of said plurality of banking institutions;

(b) electronically classifying and labeling all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary;

(c) electronically calculating the sum of all annuity funds identified with a single annuity beneficiary designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not labeled as a non-available banking institution;

(d) electronically determining whether the sum obtained in step (c) exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying and electronically labeling said one banking institution as a non-available banking institution for said single annuity beneficiary;

(e) electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to a certificate of deposit issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not labeled as a non-available banking institution;

(f) repeating steps (c) through (e) for all banking institutions designated and electronically identified to hold annuity funds for said single annuity beneficiary to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds;

(g) repeating steps (c) through (f) for all annuity beneficiaries;

- (i) generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all annuity funds for a respective annuity beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified annuity funds; and,
- (j) generating at least one further printed out report showing all non-available banking institutions for each said respective annuity beneficiary.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 including the steps of:

- electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;
- establishing said predetermined insured limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of identifying includes the step of identifying annuity funds as qualified annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds wherein said qualified annuity funds are protectable under said depositor's insurance and said unqualified annuity funds are not protectable under said depositor's insurance.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 including the step of electronically maintaining a list of available banking institutions, which have not been classified as non-available banking institutions, and non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of determining whether the sum of all annuity funds exceeds said predetermined insured limit includes the step of summing all interest payments made on annuity funds and designated for said one banking institution.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11 including the steps of electronically identifying and storing certificate of deposit data along with said annuity fund data, said certificate of deposit data including information relative to a due date of respective certificates of deposit, and including the step of electronically declassifying a respective banking institution from non-available to available when a corresponding certificate of deposit is due.

14. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

- electronically identifying, inputting and storing annuity fund data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;
- electronically classifying all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary;
- establishing a predetermined fund limit less than said predetermined insured limit;
- electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said predetermined fund limit and if so, classifying said one banking

institution as an deposit capped banking institution for said single annuity beneficiary;

electronically inputting data relative to interest payments made on all annuity funds held in deposit capped banking institutions for a respective annuity beneficiary and determining whether all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution, including interest payments, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying said deposit capped banking institution as a non-available banking institution;

electronically commanding the transfer of all additional annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said predetermined fund limit to be deposited in another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution; and,

electronically determining the excess funds over said predetermined fund limit and said insured fund limit, classifying the banking institution as deposit capped and non-available, respectively, and commanding the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.

15. A computer-based system for electronically processing annuity funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based system comprising:

means for electronically inputting and storing annuity fund data and associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

means for classifying, electronically labeling and maintaining an electronically callable and displayable list of all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary;

means for determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified and labeled as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying and automatically and electronically labeling said one banking institution with a non-available banking institution label for said single annuity beneficiary;

means for commanding and electronically ordering the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to a certificate of deposit issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not labeled as a non-available banking institution; and,

means for determining excess funds over said insured fund limit, classifying and electronically labeling the banking institution as non-available, and commanding the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the

benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15 including means for maintaining a callable, composite listing of all banking institutions which are not non-available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary; and means for classifying and maintaining a callable list of all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary.

17. A system as claimed in claim 16 including means for inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value; and, means for establishing said predetermined insured limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

18. A system as claimed in claim 16 wherein said means for classifying utilizes annuity fund data, annuity beneficiary data and banking institution data from said means for inputting and storing and further includes means for identifying annuity funds as qualified annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds wherein said qualified annuity funds are protectable under said depositor's insurance and said unqualified annuity funds are not protectable under said depositor's insurance.

19. A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein said annuity fund data includes data regarding interest flowing from said annuity funds.

20. A system as claimed in claim 19 including means for maintaining a callable, composite listing of all banking institutions which are not non-available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary.

21. A system as claimed in claim 20 including means for compiling and producing reports showing all available banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary and the sum of all annuity funds for a respective annuity beneficiary which is protected by said depositor's insurance.

22. A system as claimed in claim 16 wherein said means for inputting and storing includes inputting and storing certificate of deposit data along with said annuity fund data, said certificate of deposit data including information relative to a due date of respective certificates of deposit, and the system includes means for declassifying a respective banking institution from non-available to available when a corresponding certificate of deposit is due and the annuity funds are withdrawn.

23. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically identifying, inputting and storing annuity fund data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

electronically classifying and labeling all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary with a non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary after the step of identifying;

electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity bene-

fiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not labeled as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying and electronically labeling said one banking institution with said non-available banking institution labeled for said single annuity beneficiary;

electronically commanding the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to be deposited in another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution; and,

electronically determining the excess funds over said insured fund limit, classifying the banking institution as non-available, and commanding the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.

24. A computer-based system for processing annuity funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based system comprising:

means for inputting and storing annuity fund data and associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

means for classifying and maintaining a callable list of all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds for each annuity beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective annuity beneficiary;

means for determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying said one banking institution as a non-available banking institution for said single annuity beneficiary;

means for commanding the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to be deposited in another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution; and,

means for determining excess funds over said insured fund limit, classifying the banking institution as non-available, and commanding the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.

25. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically identifying, inputting and storing life insurance fund data, associated customer data, life insurance beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

electronically classifying all banking institutions which hold funds for each life insurance beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective life insurance beneficiary after the step of identifying;

electronically determining whether the sum of all life insurance funds, identified with a single life insurance beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying said one banking institution as a non-available banking institution for said single life insurance beneficiary;

electronically commanding the transfer of all life insurance funds identified with said single life insurance beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to be deposited in another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution; and,

electronically determining the excess funds over said insured fund limit, classifying the banking institution as non-available, and commanding the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life insurance beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance.

26. A computer-based system for processing life insurance funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved

banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined insured limit, said computer-based system comprising:

means for inputting and storing life insurance fund data and associated customer data, life insurance beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

means for classifying and maintaining a callable list of all banking institutions which hold funds for each life insurance beneficiary as non-available banking institutions for each respective life insurance beneficiary;

means for determining whether the sum of all life insurance funds, identified with a single life insurance beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution, exceeds said insured fund limit and if so, classifying said one banking institution as a non-available banking institution for said single life insurance beneficiary;

means for commanding the transfer of all life insurance funds identified with said single life insurance beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said insured fund limit to be deposited in another one of said plurality of banking institutions which is not classified as a non-available banking institution; and,

means for determining excess funds over said insured fund limit, classifying the banking institution as non-available, and commanding the transfer of excess funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life insurance beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance.

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United States Patent [19]

Hagan

[11] Patent Number: 5,864,685

[45] Date of Patent: *Jan. 26, 1999

[54] INCREASING INCOME TRUST COMPUTER TRANSACTION SYSTEM AND INSURED INVESTMENT ACCOUNT SYSTEM

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Primary Examiner—Robert A. Weinhardt
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Robert C. Kain, Jr.

[76] Inventor: Bernard P. Hagan, 115 Commonwealth Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94118

[57] ABSTRACT

[*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Jul. 10, 2012, has been disclaimed.

This invention relates to a data processing system and computer-based data processing method for managing an investment account structure. According to some of the preferred embodiments, the account structure is made up of one or more annuity contracts or life insurance contracts, each of the contracts being owned by one or more individual subscribers. Premiums are paid for the contracts being invested in one or more depository accounts, insured by deposit insurance, at one or more financial institutions. According to another preferred embodiment, annuity contracts are structured in one or more irrevocable trusts, with each subscriber's principal and/or income placed in a trust corpus of one of the irrevocable trusts. Each subscriber has a primary beneficiary (usually the subscriber) and a secondary beneficiary. When a subscriber dies, the trust income is distributed to the remaining primary beneficiaries. When the last subscriber dies, the entire trust is distributed proportionally to the secondary beneficiaries.

[21] Appl. No.: 203,214

[22] Filed: Feb. 28, 1994

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ G06F 17/60

[52] U.S. Cl. 395/235; 395/237; 395/236

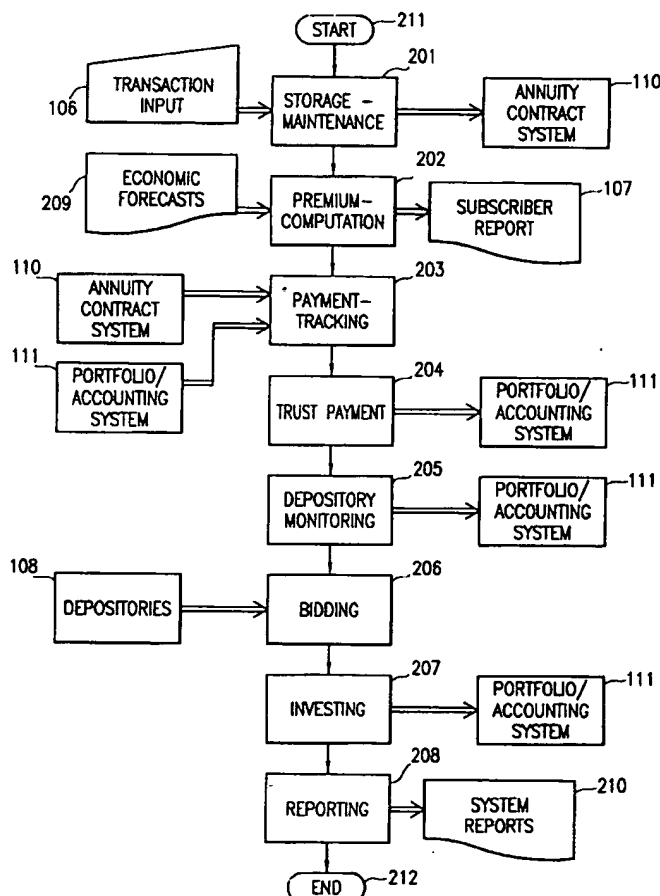
[58] Field of Search 364/401, 408,
364/401 R; 235/379; 395/201, 235, 236,
237, 239

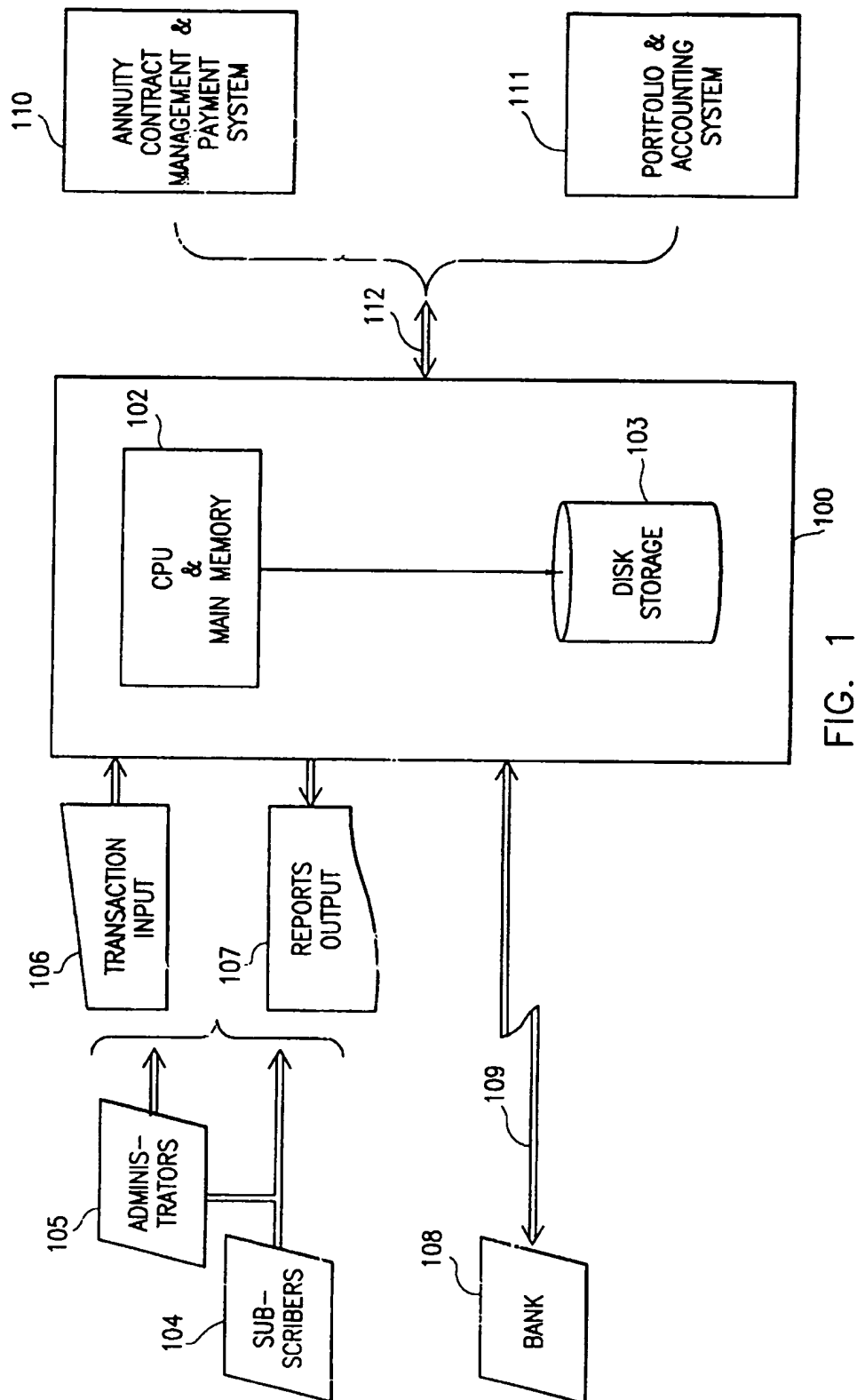
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14 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets





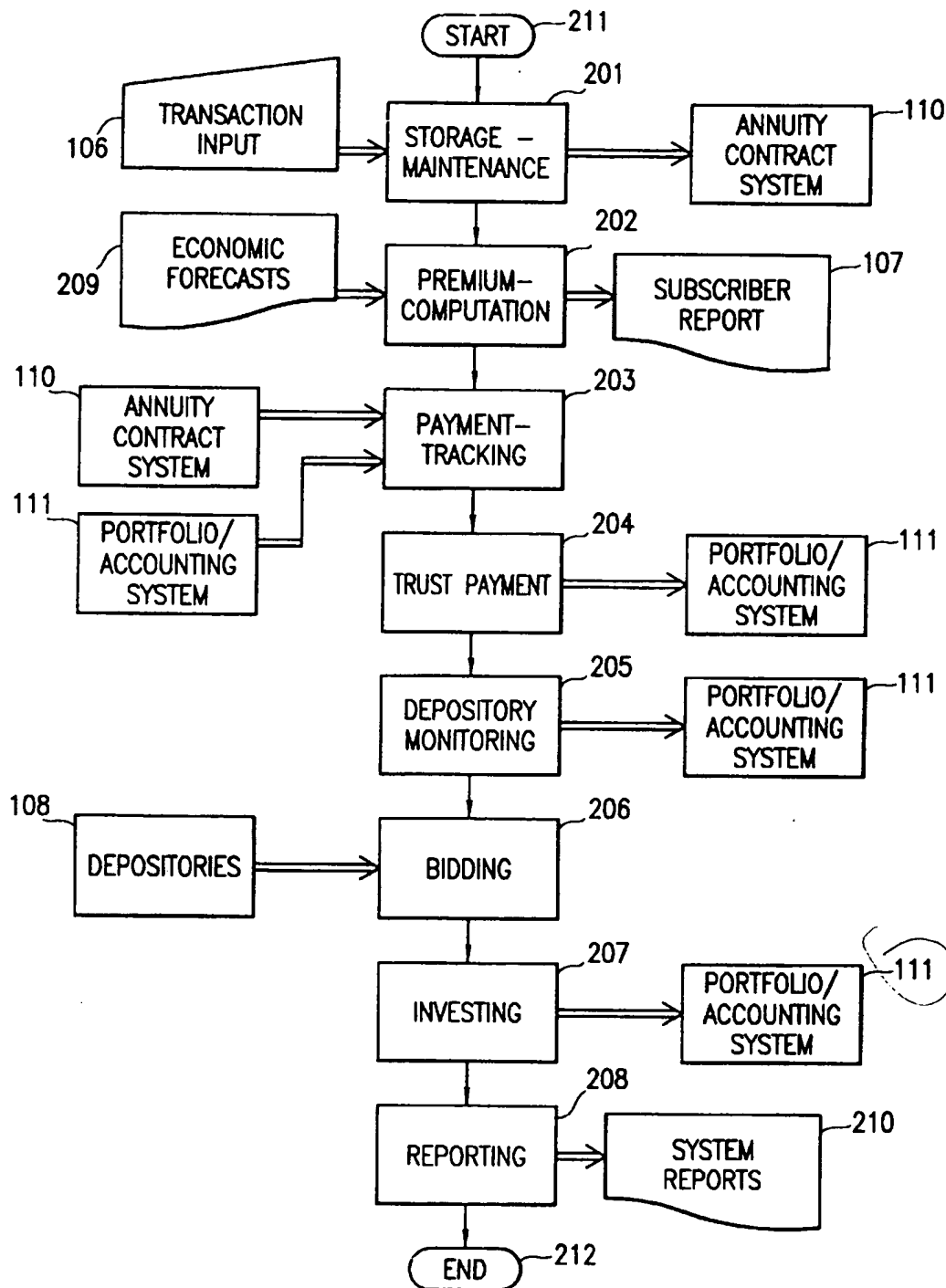


FIG. 2

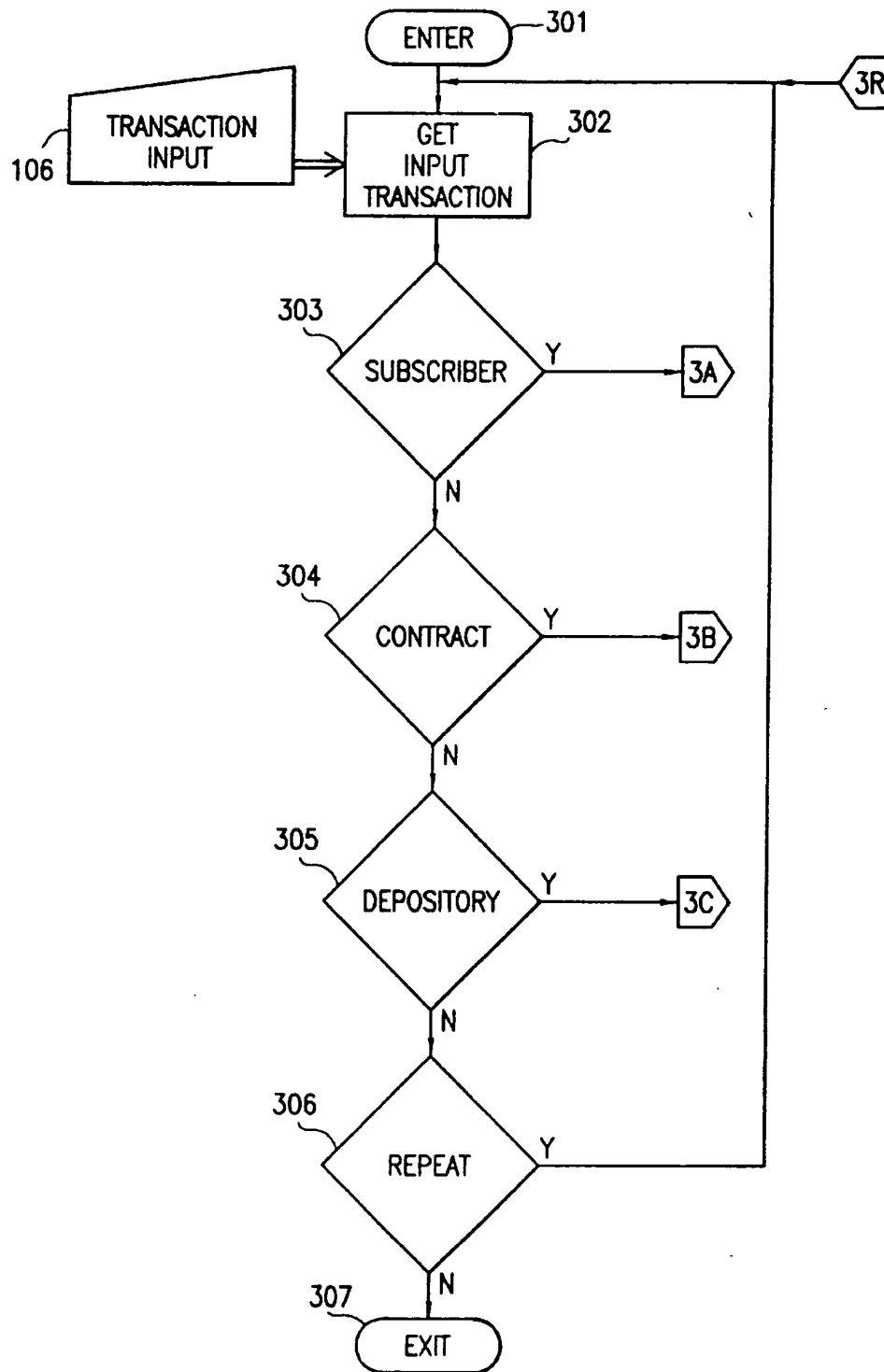


FIG. 3

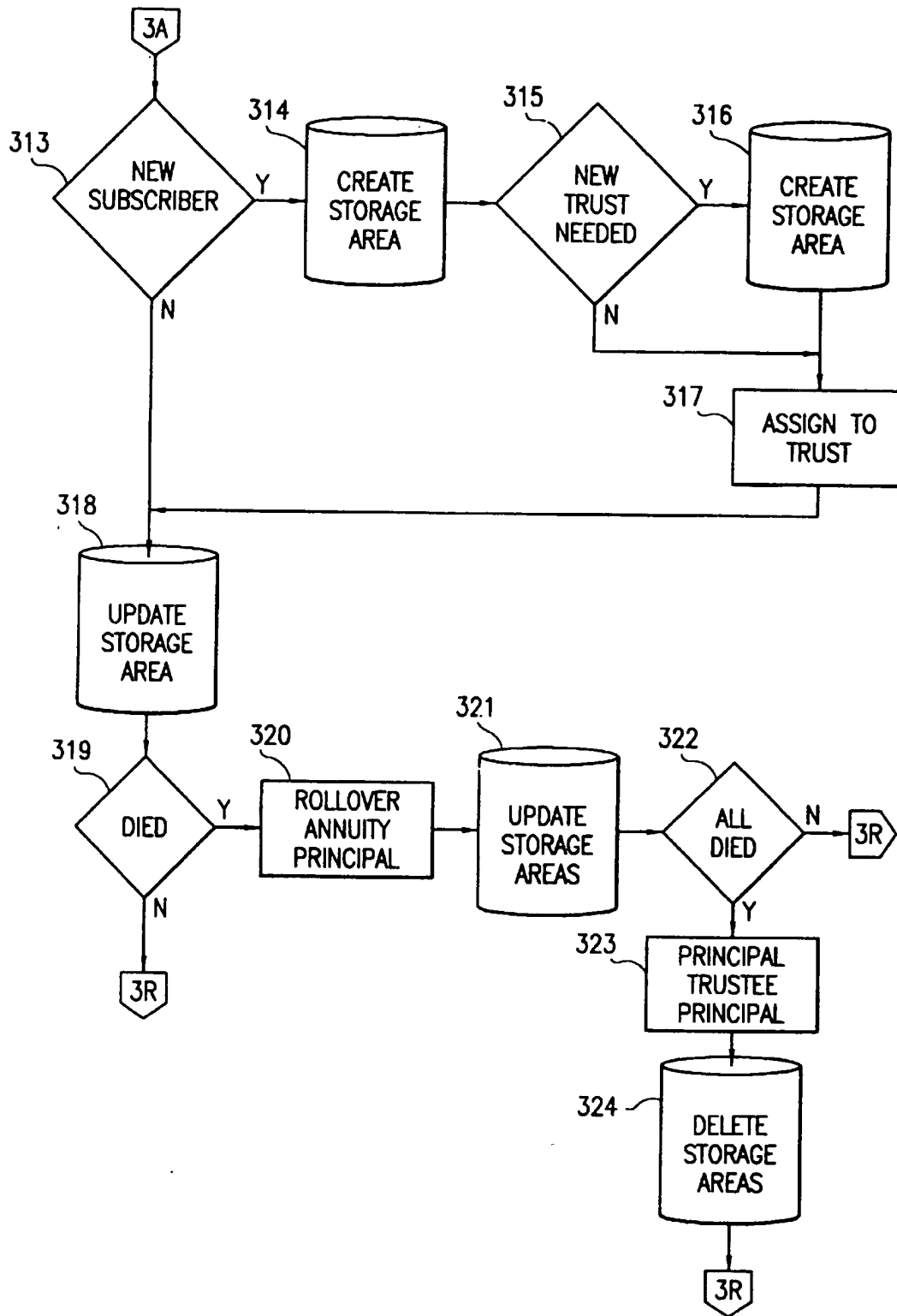


FIG. 3A

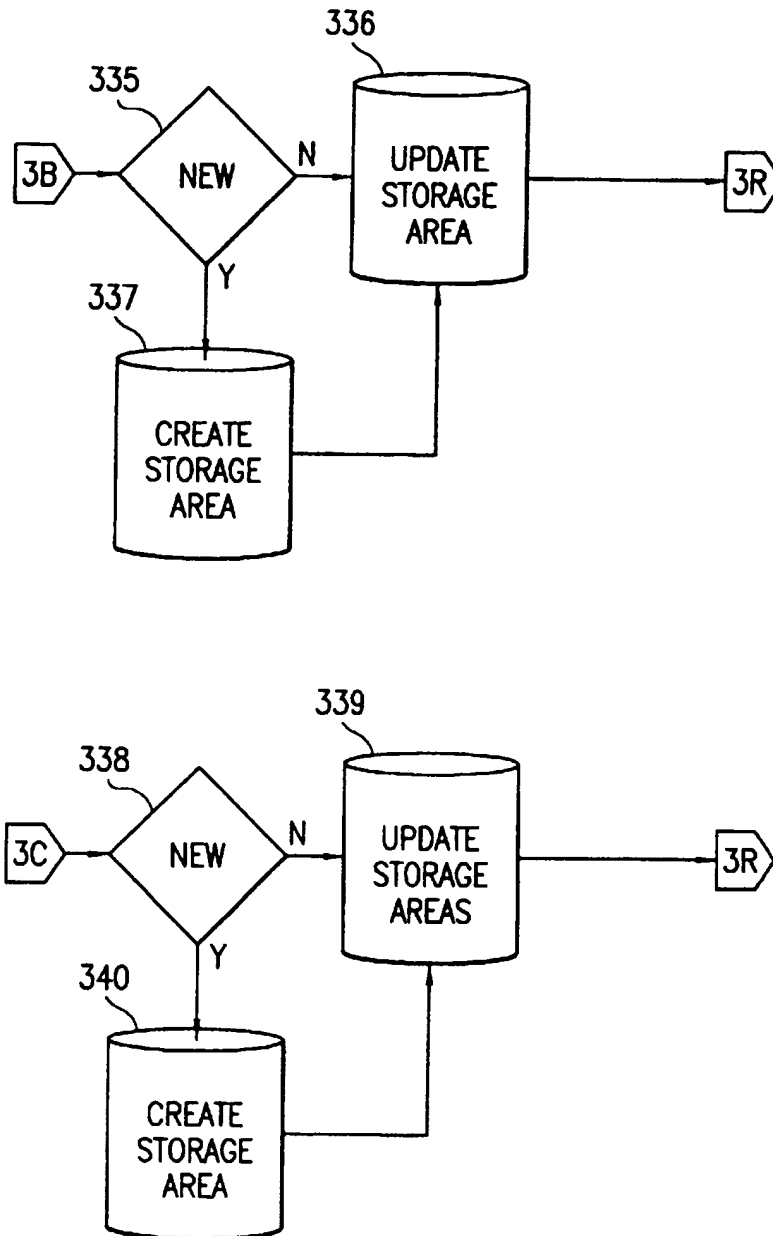


FIG. 3B

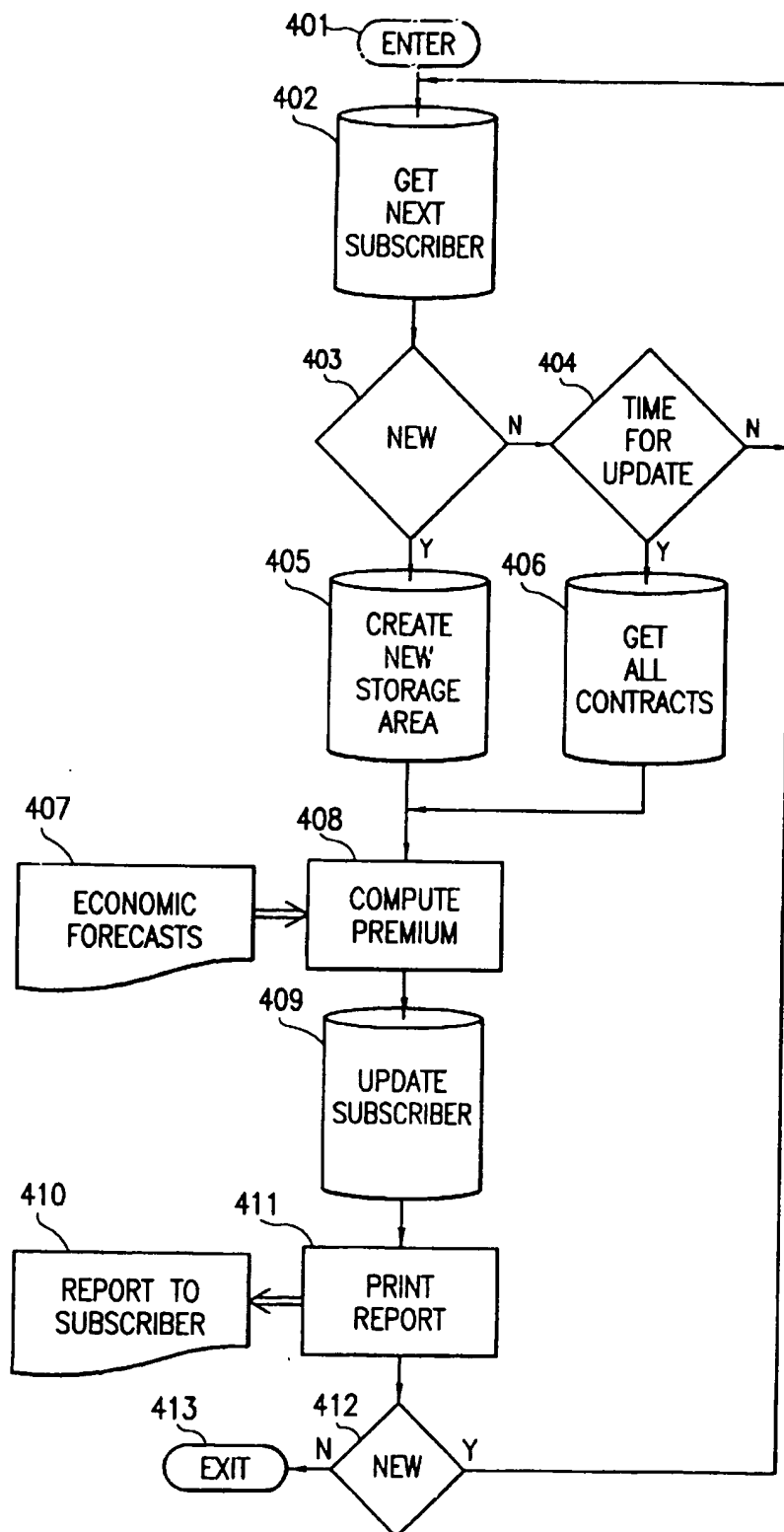


FIG. 4

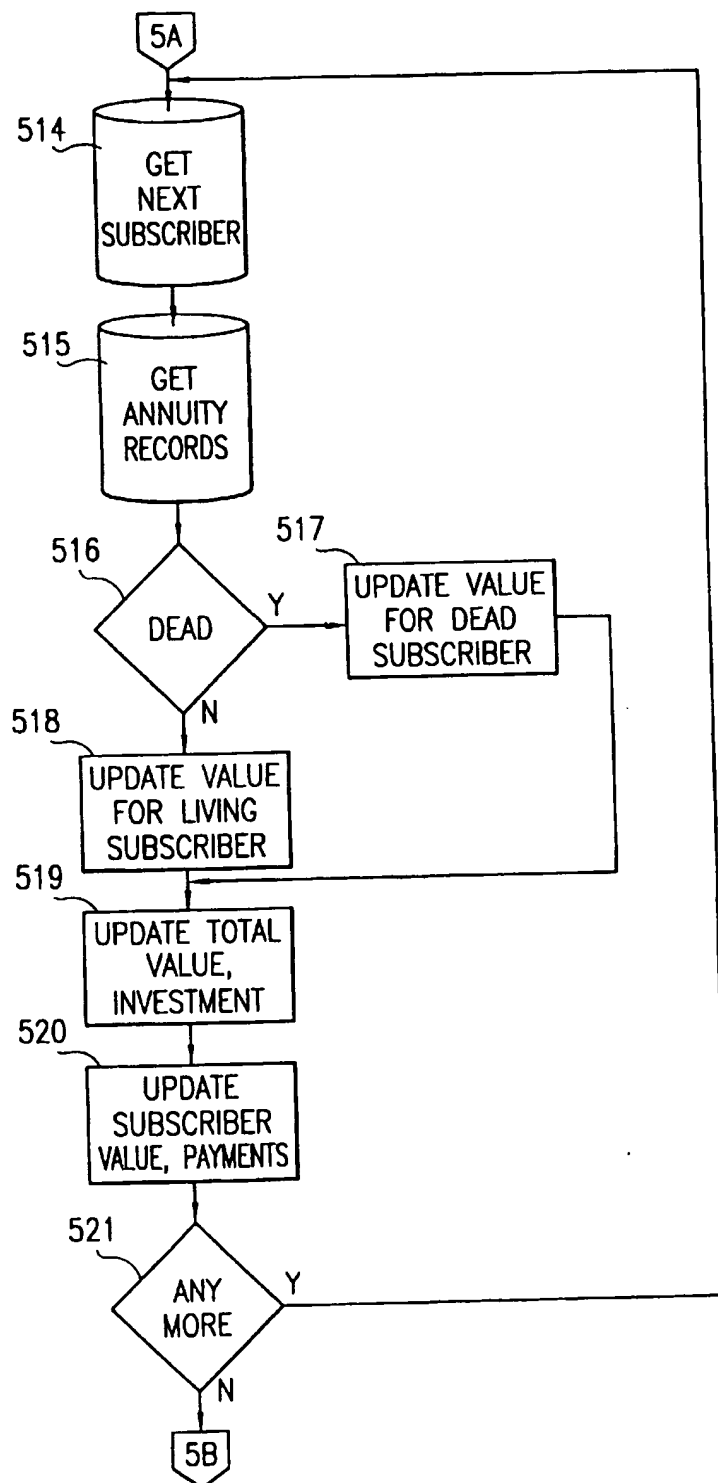


FIG. 4A

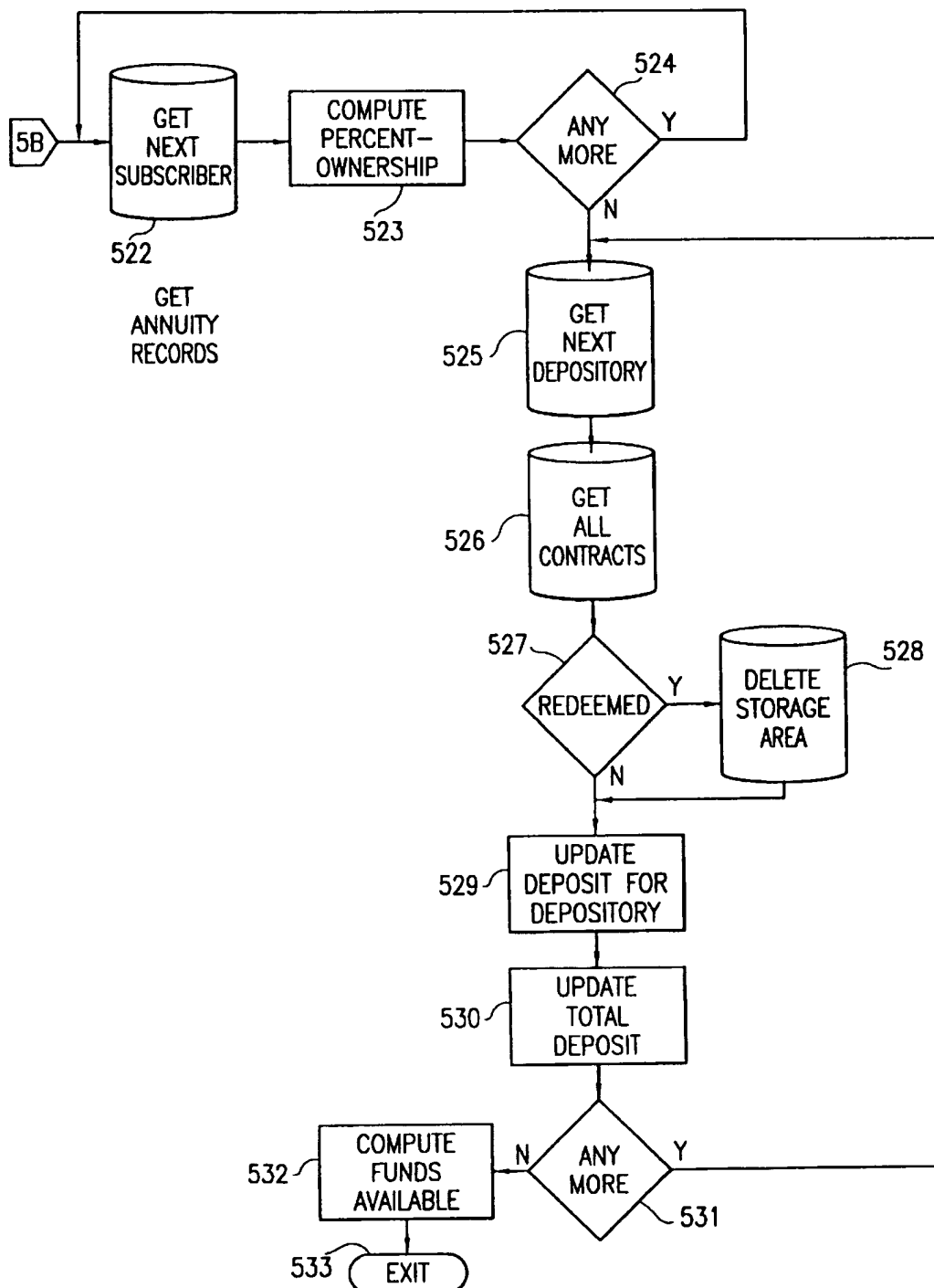


FIG. 4B

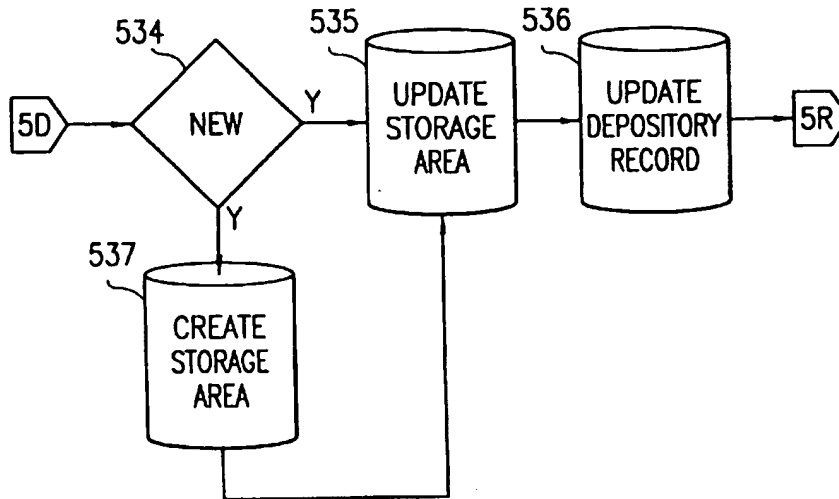


FIG. 4C

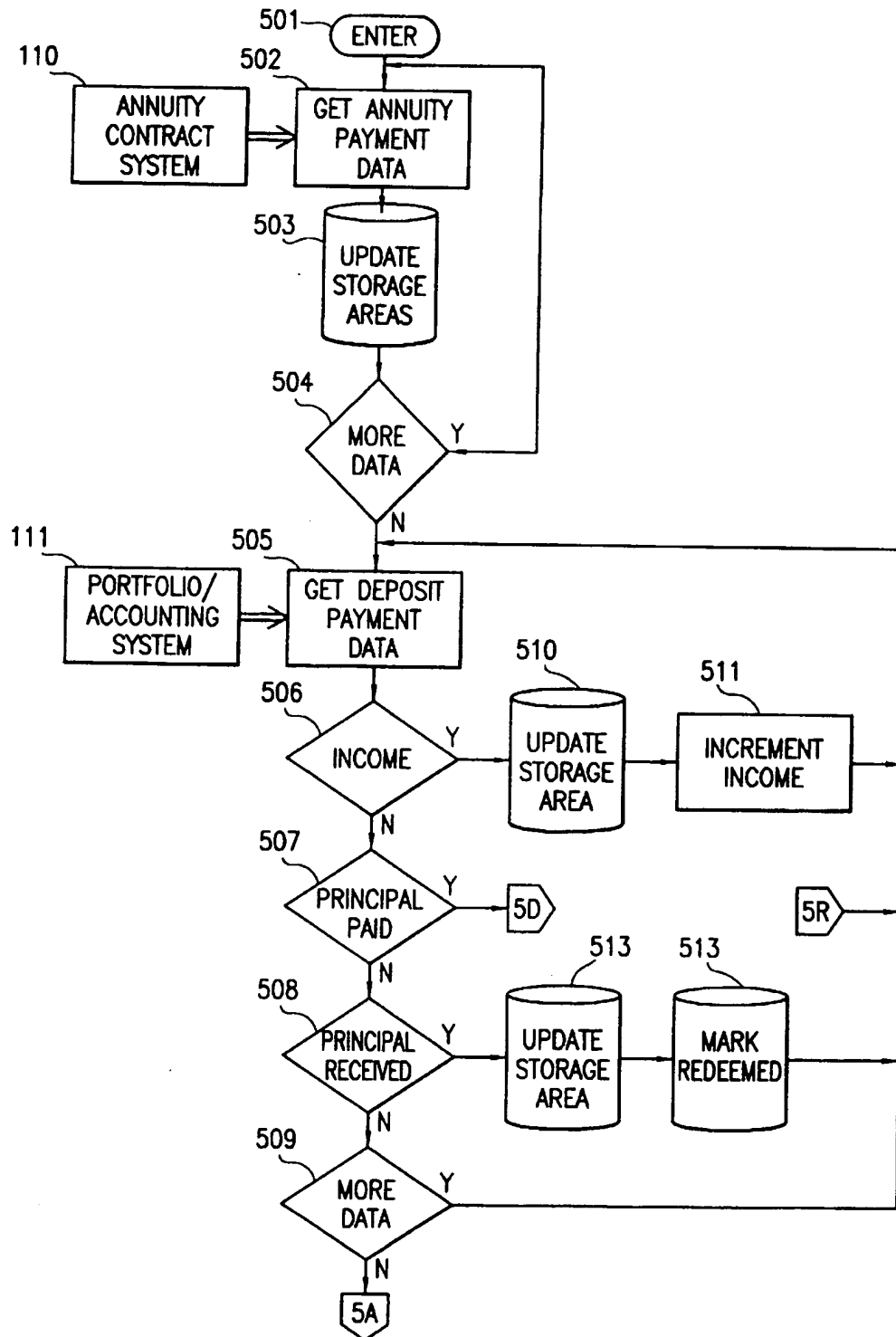


FIG. 5

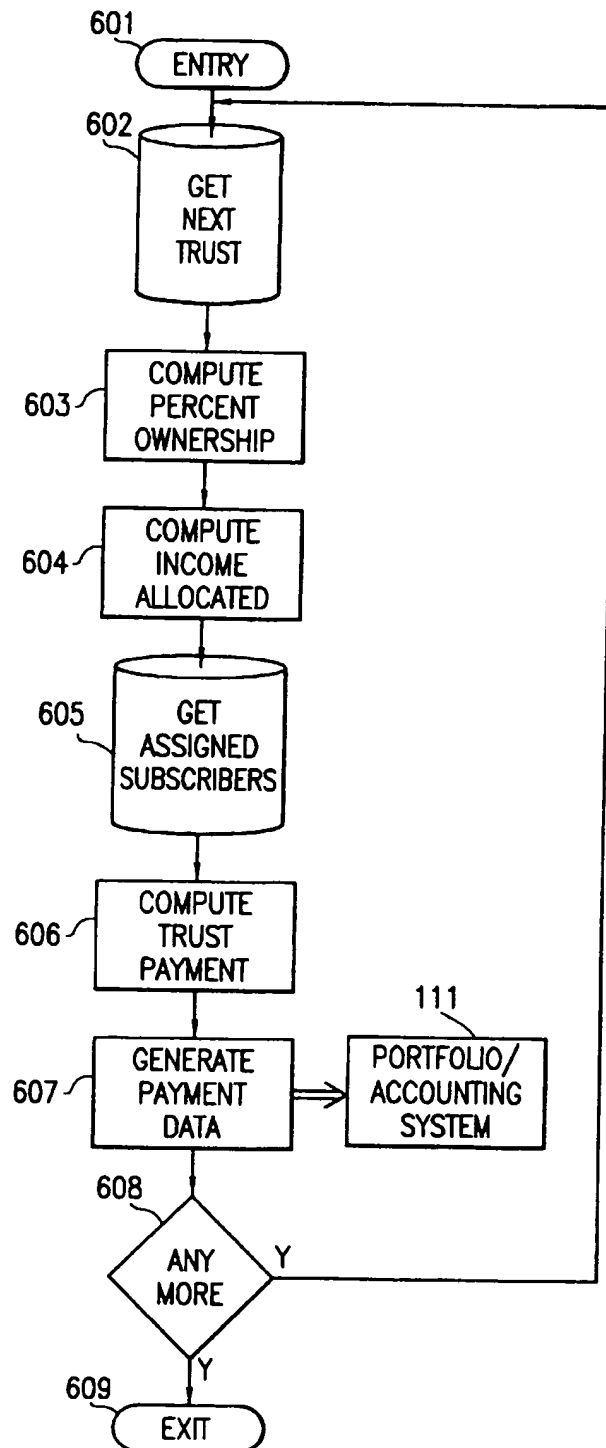


FIG. 6

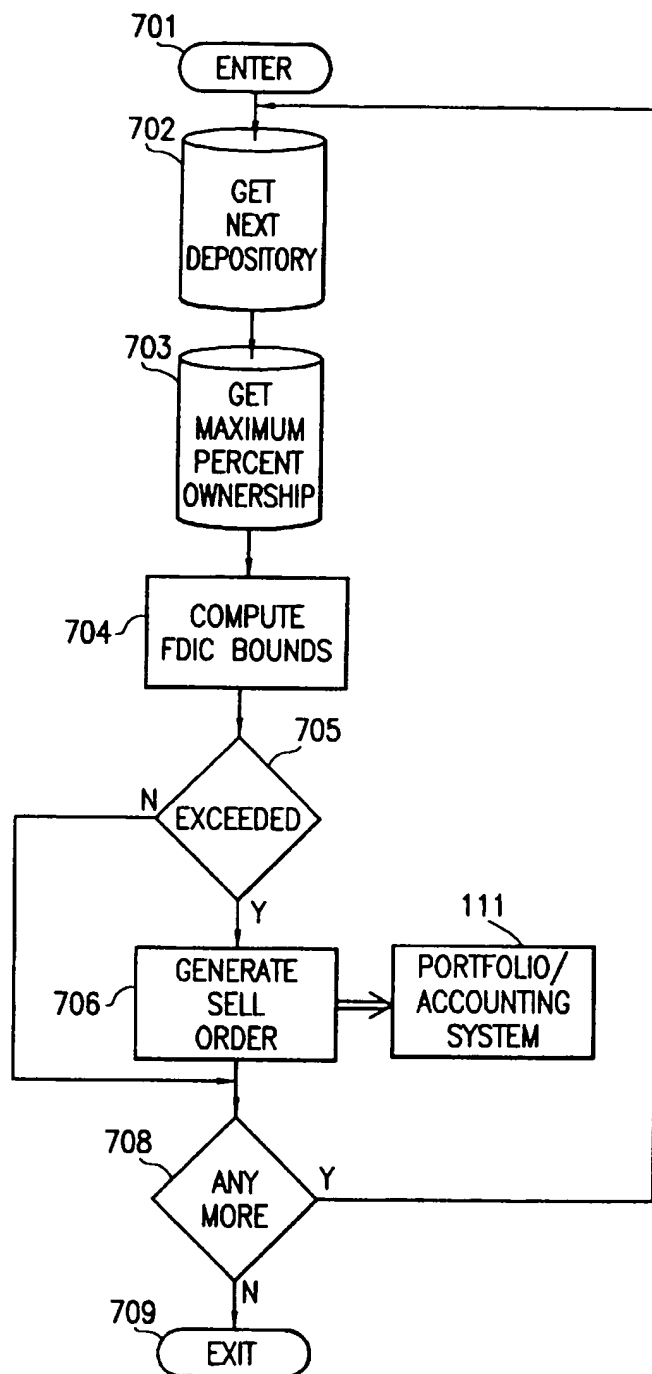


FIG. 7

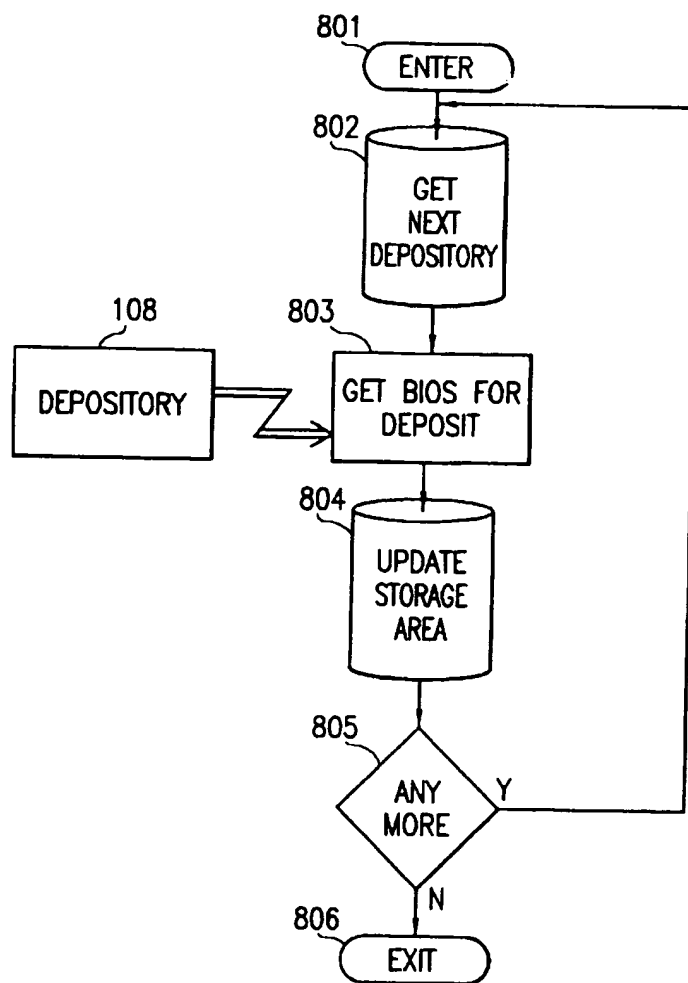


FIG. 8

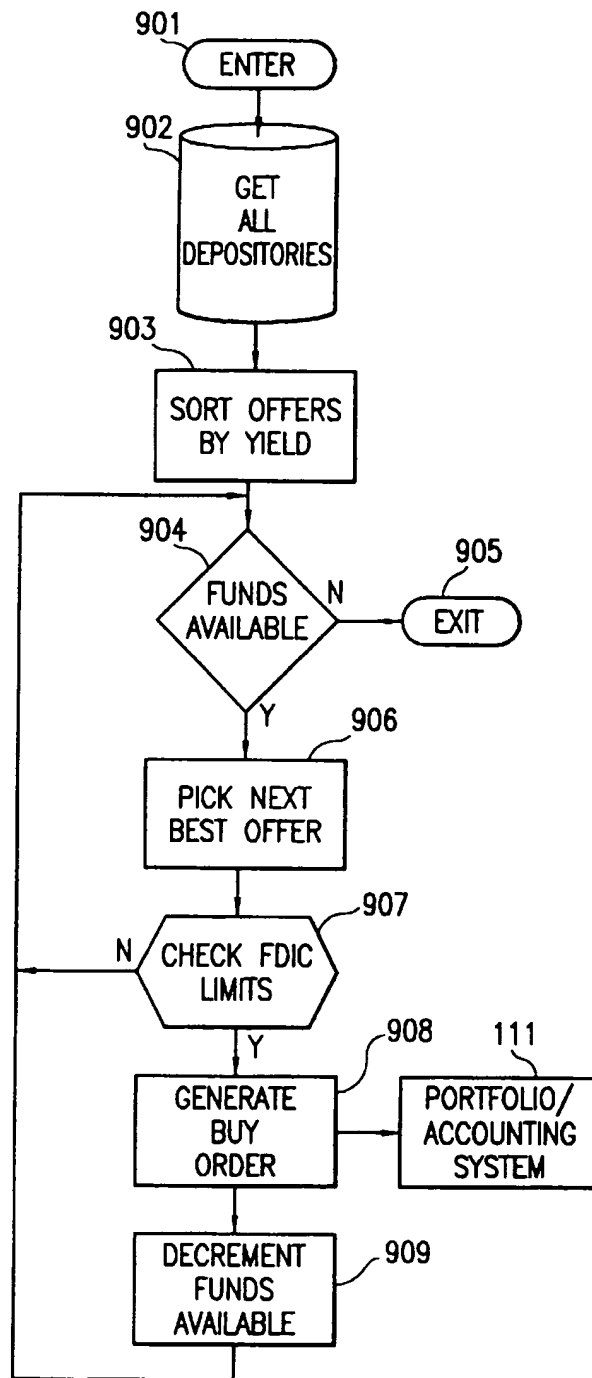


FIG. 9

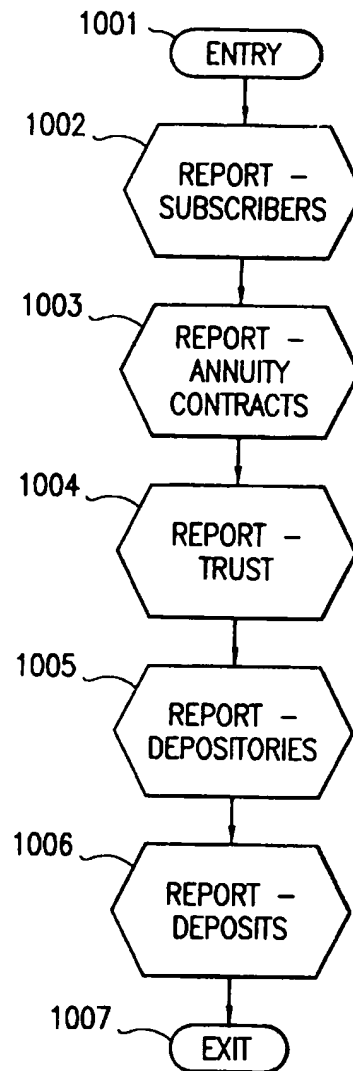


FIG. 9A

INCREASING INCOME TRUST COMPUTER TRANSACTION SYSTEM AND INSURED INVESTMENT ACCOUNT SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system and a method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds invested in one or more of annuity contracts or life insurance contracts such that the invested funds are protected by depositor's insurance, such as FDIC insurance.

Certain banking institutions, banks and savings and loans pay premiums such that money on deposit in those banking institutions is insured. For example, in the United States, the premiums are paid to an agency of the federal government (the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC), and the institutions thus are federally insured. If the banking institution becomes insolvent for any reason, the FDIC pays the depositor for any losses up to an established insured limit. At present, deposits are insured up to \$100,000.00. There is a regulation in the United States which provides that funds deposited by life insurance companies or a corporation solely to fund life insurance or annuity contracts will be insured up to the depositor's insurance limit (\$100,000.00) per individual entitled to receive benefits under the contract. The persons entitled to receive benefits under an annuity contract or a life insurance are called herein contract "primary beneficiaries" whether those persons are classified as subscribers or customers (the individuals who invest in the contracts) or as other beneficiaries (other individuals).

An annuity contract is a contract that pays a primary beneficiary an amount at regular intervals or pays a primary beneficiary a lump sum at a predetermined time in the future. The annuity contract is funded or provided for by a subscriber. Essentially, the subscriber pays a certain amount of money to a company, the company invests that money, and the company at a certain time in the future or at regular intervals pays the primary beneficiary a prescribed amount as required under the annuity contract. Primary beneficiaries for annuity contracts are sometimes called "annuitants."

Similarly, a life insurance contract pays out a sum upon the death of a subscriber to primary beneficiaries.

If annuity contracts are structured as an irrevocable trust, the subscriber's principal and/or income is placed in a trust corpus. The total income of the trust corpus is distributed to all primary beneficiaries. Then as mortality reduces the number of primary beneficiaries, the trust income is distributed to fewer and fewer primary beneficiaries. When the last subscriber dies, the trust corpus is distributed to "secondary beneficiaries."

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a data processing system and method for implementing and administering an insured savings account structure. More particularly, there are five major preferred embodiments of this invention: (1) fixed annuity contracts, which may be tax-deferred annuities; (2) variable annuity contracts, which may be tax-deferred annuities; (3) ordinary life insurance contracts; (4) universal life insurance contracts; and (5) annuity contracts structured in an increasing income trust. These will be summarized below. The invention is also suitable for general types of life insurance contracts and other types of annuity contracts.

Fixed and Variable Annuity Contracts

A system and method according to the present invention can manage one or more fixed or variable annuity contracts. Fixed annuity contracts provide a guaranteed income over

time. Variable annuity contracts have returns that may vary over time. Systems and methods according to these preferred embodiments are particularly useful for optionally providing individuals with retirement savings and benefits.

In particular, according to these embodiments, a data processing system for managing an investment account structure comprising one or more annuity contracts, each of the annuity contracts being owned by one or more individual subscribers, premiums paid for the annuity contracts being invested in one or more depository accounts, insured by deposit insurance, at one or more financial institutions. The system comprises: computer processor means for processing data; storage means for storing data on a storage medium; depository monitoring means for processing data representing the depository accounts insured by deposit insurance and for ensuring that deposit insurance requirements are met for all depositories and all subscribers; and payment tracking means for inputting data representing all transactions of the investment account structure and for computing ownership of a share of the investment account structure of each of one or more beneficiaries of each annuity contract.

Some types of annuity contracts are deferred annuity contracts. Deferred annuity contracts allow funds to be accumulated on a tax-deferred basis over the term of the contract and pay a lump sum or make periodic payments to annuitants at certain times in the future. For example, a subscriber may fund a deferred annuity and, upon retirement of the subscriber, the company holding the annuity pays the subscriber either a lump sum or periodic payments as selected by the annuitant. In this example, the contract is annuitized upon retirement of the subscriber. If the contract is surrendered during early years, there typically are surrender penalties. If there are partial withdrawals, penalties sometimes apply. Interest if withdrawn is reportable as income in the year of withdrawal.

In order to obtain the benefit of the depositor's insurance, the corporation holding the annuity must establish an internal account for the primary beneficiary and place the funds on deposit with a federally approved institution (e.g., a FDIC institution). However, the corporation can accumulate and combine investments for a number of annuity beneficiaries and invest that aggregate sum with a single approved institution, such as a bank. The regulations provide that, in the event the banking institution becomes insolvent, the federal agency providing the depositors' insurance will pay for losses sustained by a particular primary beneficiary provided those losses do not exceed the established depositor's insurance limit value.

Tax-deferred annuities are presently being marketed throughout the United States by life insurance companies. Tax law currently allows interest earnings in tax-deferred annuity accounts to accumulate tax free until withdrawn. Consequently, this form of annuity has become a popular investment, particularly for those saving for their retirement years. However, funds invested in deferred annuities are not federally insured. There have been losses suffered by purchasers of annuities due to the inability of some insurance companies to remain solvent. This is particularly devastating for anyone depending on annuity income for support during retirement years. In addition, elderly persons and persons of all ages currently retired and planning retirement are greatly concerned that they will not have enough money to live on in their old age. The costs of many essentials continue to increase: housing, food, fuel, etc. Health care costs, particularly, are worrisome, and especially costs for extended hospitalization or nursing care.

It would be a great benefit if the features of annuities (ordinary or tax-deferred) could be combined with federal

deposit insurance. In the United States, for example, there are provisions in the law that are designed to permit funds used to purchase annuity contracts (or life insurance contracts) to receive FDIC insurance. However, there are problems in administering a system and method for managing insured deposits.

For example, the absolute security of total FDIC insurance coverage for all the system's subscribers must be maintained by investing all premiums only in FDIC insured deposit contracts with FDIC insured depository institutions. The commingled investments of all the subscribers must be monitored so that no one subscriber ever has an investment in one depository that exceeds the FDIC insurance limit.

Life Insurance Contracts

According to two other preferred embodiments, a system and method according to the present invention manages one or more ordinary or universal life insurance contracts. These embodiments are analogous to the preceding embodiments and address similar administrative problems, with ordinary life insurance contracts analogous to fixed annuity contracts and with universal life insurance contracts analogous to variable annuity contracts. However, unlike the previous embodiments, life insurance contracts cannot be used to establish retirement account structures.

In particular, according to these embodiments, a data processing system is provided for managing an investment account structure comprising one or more life insurance contracts, each of the life contracts being owned by one or more individual subscribers, premiums paid for the life insurance contracts being invested in one or more depository accounts, insured by deposit insurance, at one or more financial institutions. The system comprises: computer processor means for processing data; storage means for storing data on a storage medium; depository monitoring means for processing data representing the depository accounts and for ensuring that deposit insurance requirements are met for all depositories and all subscribers; and payment tracking means for inputting data representing all transactions of the investment account structure and for computing ownership of a share of the investment account structure of each of one or more beneficiaries of each life insurance contract.

Increasing Income Trust

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the disclosed system and method may also be used to administer accounts set up as irrevocable trusts. Each subscriber invests in an annuity contract and is assigned, along with a limited number of actuarially similar other subscribers, to an irrevocable trust. The data processing system typically will assign the subscriber as a primary beneficiary to an irrevocable trust consisting of one or more individuals of similar actuarial characteristics and equal investment. The trust corpus is funded with the annuity contract principal and/or the annuity contract income of subscribers. Each of the primary beneficiaries (typically the subscribers themselves, but possibly other individuals) receive payments from the trust income. As each subscriber dies, the trust income is distributed to the remaining primary beneficiaries. When the last subscriber dies, the trust corpus is distributed proportionally to secondary beneficiaries, typically the heirs of the primary beneficiaries. Such a system and method presents further administrative problems that must be addressed.

In particular, according to this embodiment, a data processing system is provided for managing an investment account structure comprising one or more annuity contracts and one or more irrevocable trusts, each of the annuity contracts being owned by one or more individual

subscribers, with each subscriber's principal and/or income placed in a trust corpus in one of the irrevocable trusts, and with premiums paid for the annuity contracts and principal of the trusts being invested in one or more depository accounts, insured by deposit insurance, offered by one or more participating depository institutions. The system comprises: computer processor means for processing data; storage means for storing data on a storage medium; depository monitoring means for processing data representing the depository accounts and for ensuring that deposit insurance requirements are met for all depositories and all subscribers; payment tracking means for processing data representing all transactions of the investment account structure and for computing each subscriber's percentage ownership of the investment account structure; and trust payment means for computing, upon the death of each subscriber, the payments to each remaining subscriber's primary beneficiaries from the proper trust and for computing, upon death of a last subscriber, the pro rata distribution to each secondary beneficiary from the proper trust.

Other objects and embodiments of the invention, its nature, and various advantages will be apparent to those of skill in the art from the accompanying drawings and the following detailed description of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram depicting the flow of information using a data processing system according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart of system functioning in a data processing system according to the present invention.

FIGS. 3, 3A, and 3B are flowcharts depicting storage maintenance means processing, with FIG. 3A further depicting the processing of subscriber transactions and FIG. 3B further depicting annuity contract and depository transactions.

FIGS. 4 and 4A-C are flowcharts depicting processing the payment tracking means and the processing of a principal paid input from the portfolio/accounting system.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart depicting trust payment means processing.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart depicting depository monitoring means processing.

FIG. 7 is a flowchart depicting bidding means processing.

FIG. 8 is a flowchart depicting investing means processing.

FIGS. 9 and 9A are flowcharts depicting reporting means processing and the processing of each report.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A number of implementations of the preferred embodiments will be apparent to those of skill in the art from the following descriptions of the cases of (1) a system and method for annuity contracts (which is analogous for life insurance contracts) and (2) a system and method for annuity contracts structured as an irrevocable trust. Skilled artisans will be able to recognize those features that are optional or inapplicable for either case, thus excluding, for example, features incompatible with a trust when implementing a system and method for an irrevocable trust structure. The example of FDIC insurance is used throughout, and the primary beneficiary is assumed to be the subscriber.

The data processing system and method according to the present invention is depicted as part of the schematic dia-

gram of FIG. 1. Computer 100 comprises central processing unit and main memory (CPU) 102 and disk storage 103. Computer 100 may be, for example, a single sufficiently powerful computer or a network of computers jointly of sufficient power.

Data and instructions that implement the process and method are stored in disk storage 103. The data are preferably maintained in entity records that include descriptive data as shown in Table 1. The data can be organized as files, relational databases, or other equivalent structures.

TABLE 1

ENTITY RECORD	TYPICAL DESCRIPTIVE DATA
(1) Subscriber Record	Name; address; ultimate beneficiaries; Actuarial data; Annuity contract(s) owned; Value of subscribers total investment; Percent subscriber owns; Net of all payments to and from the system
(2) Annuity Contract Record	Owning subscriber; Contract terms; Payment history; principal value.
(3) Trust Record (for trust embodiment)	List of all assigned subscribers; Payment history; principal value.
(4) Depository Record	Name; address; Deposit contract terms offered; List of deposit contracts accepted; Net deposit balance.
(5) Deposit Contract Record	Depository; Current or redeemed; Terms of deposit; Payment history; principal value.
(6) System Record	Current date; Total value of the system; Total income for this period; Funds available to invest.

The instructions are processed by CPU 102 and are broken into cooperating modules. A preferred functional decomposition is listed in Table 2. The instructions can be written in procedural, database, object oriented, or other equivalent computer language.

TABLE 2

FUNCTIONAL MODULE	TYPICAL FUNCTIONAL CONTENT
(1) Storage maintenance	Creates storage areas on the storage media; accepts transaction input data and updates storage areas; deletes storage areas.
(2) Payment tracking	Accepts payment data from annuity contract and portfolio/accounting systems; computes each subscriber's percentage ownership and funds available to investment.
(3) Trust payment (for trust embodiment)	Computes trust interest income; generates orders to portfolio/accounting system to pay proportionate amount to surviving beneficiaries
(4) Depository monitoring	Monitors total deposits to assure no subscriber's investment exceeds the FDIC limit in any depository; generates orders to portfolio/accounting system to sell deposits if limits exceeded.
(5) Bidding	Periodically solicits from each depository data representing its highest yielding or most attractive deposit contract offers.

TABLE 2-continued

FUNCTIONAL MODULE	TYPICAL FUNCTIONAL CONTENT
(6) Investment	Invests funds available; generates orders to portfolio/accounting system to buy the most attractive deposit contracts.
(7) Reporting	For each file or database, generates exception, detail and summary reports.

Skilled artisans will recognize those functional modules that are optional. In addition, alternative, equivalent organizations of data and instructions will be apparent to those skilled in this art.

The other elements of FIG. 1 depict the data flow environment of a system and method according to the invention. Subscribers 104 typically correspond with one or more administrators 105 who enters their requested transactions into the system. In a networked implementation, subscribers may deal directly with the system via home terminals. The administrators also enter transactions describing FDIC insured depositories 108, and annuity contracts, and is responsible for correct system functioning and auditing system transactions. The entering of transactions by administrators 105 is indicated at block 106, which could be a terminal or other input device. The system produces reports, as indicated at block 107, for administrators and subscribers in any convenient output form.

The system obtains data describing the deposit contracts offered by the FDIC insured depositories 108 via communications link 109. Preferably, 109 is an automatic telecommunications link. Alternatively, it could also require manual steps.

The system utilizes associated data processing subsystems that are known in the prior art. Annuity contract system 110 is a subsystem for managing annuity contracts, receiving premium investments, making annuity payments, and tracking principal value. Portfolio and accounting system 111 is a subsystem for managing the insured deposit contracts, interest income, and cash on hand. These subsystems may be implemented on computer 100. Alternatively, they may reside on a separate computer system communicating via communications link 112 with computer 100. In either implementation, annuity contract system 110 receives from computer 100 data describing annuity contracts and sends to computer 100 data describing payment history and principal value of the annuity contracts. Portfolio and accounting system 111 receives from computer 100 data describing orders to buy or sell particular deposit contracts and sends to computer 100, data describing income history and principal value of outstanding contracts.

FIG. 2 illustrates both the sequence of operations of a system according to the invention and the flow of external data into and out of the system. The function of processes at blocks 201 to 208 are described in Table 2, rows 1 to 8, respectively. If a system according to the present invention does not implement the trust feature, trust payment process 204 will not be present, nor will the pieces of any other process that are identified to process data representing trusts.

After one or more input transactions have been gathered as indicated at block 106, the system starts processing at block 211 and continues to storage maintenance process 201, where data is input to disk storage 103. After one or more transactions have been input at block 201, the succeeding processes, at blocks 202 to 208, are performed in the order illustrated. The system stops at block 212. Preferably,

these processes would be performed at an appropriate interval, at least monthly but perhaps weekly or daily, depending on the frequency of transaction input, annuity and income payments, and other system events.

A detailed description of the storage maintenance means is depicted in FIG. 3. Storage maintenance means processing begins at block 301 and ends at block 307, after which the system proceeds to the next sequential process. Transaction data is input as indicated at block 106 for processing at block 302. At block 303, the system checks if the transaction is for a subscriber. If so, processing proceeds, as indicated label 3A, to continue as described in FIG. 3A. If not, as indicated at blocks 304 and 305, the system checks for annuity contract or depository transactions, respectively, and proceeds, as indicated at labels 3B or 3C, respectively, to continue as described in FIG. 3B. If the administrator requests a repeat, as indicated at block 306, the system will branch to data input at block 302, or else storage maintenance processing exits at block 307.

Now referring to FIG. 3A, if a subscriber transaction has been input, at block 313 the system checks for a new subscriber. If so, then a new storage area for this subscriber is created at block 314 to contain data similar to that listed in Table 1, row 1. If trusts are being used, then the new subscriber must be assigned to a trust. At block 315, the system checks if a new trust is needed, and if so a new storage area for this trust is created at block 316 to contain data similar to that listed in Table 1, row 3. The process indicated at block 318 updates these new storage areas.

Process at block 317 assigns the new subscriber to a trust, which preferably consists of up to approximately 200 other subscribers (each with a primary beneficiary) with similar actuarial characteristics and equal investments.

At block 319, the system checks for a transaction indicating the death of a subscriber. If not, subscriber transaction processing is complete. If so, the trust income is distributed among the remaining primary beneficiaries, as indicated at block 320. This requires trust and annuity contract storage area update at block 321.

The system performs a further test at block 322 by fetching all the subscriber storage areas assigned to the trust updated at blocks 320 and 321 and checks to determine if all subscribers have died. If not, processing is complete, and the system returns, as indicated at label 3R, to continue as indicated in FIG. 3. If so, then this trust must be terminated, as indicated at block 323; specifically, the trust corpus is distributed ratably to the secondary beneficiaries specified by the subscriber areas tested at block 322. Then, at block 324, all data areas for this trust and these subscribers are deleted from the storage means.

Turning now to FIG. 3B, if an annuity contract transaction has been detected, processing continues at connector 3B. At block 335, the system checks for a new annuity, and if so, a new storage area for this annuity is created by block 337 to contain data similar to that listed in Table 1, row 2. An annuity transaction will occur when a subscriber purchases a contract. Finally, as indicated at block 316, the system updates the annuity contract storage area with the input data.

If a depository transaction has been detected, processing continues as indicated at label 3C. At block 338, the system checks for a new depository, and if so, a new storage area for this depository is created at block 340 to contain data similar to that listed in Table 1, row 4. A new depository will occur when the administrator decides to do business with a new institution and enters a transaction containing descriptive data. Finally, as indicated at block 339, the system updates

the depository storage area with the input data. Processing then returns to FIG. 3, as indicated at label 3R.

A detailed description of the payment tracking means is depicted in FIG. 4. Payment tracking means processing begins at block 501 and ends at block 533, after which the system proceeds to the next sequential process. Data input 502 and the test at block 504 implement a loop to extract all annuity contract payment data accumulated for this period from annuity contract system 110. Payment data updates the storage area for the particular annuity contract at block 503.

Data input at block 505 and the test at block 509 implement a loop to extract all portfolio and accounting payment data accumulated for this period from portfolio and accounting system 111. At blocks 506, 507, and 508, the system determines whether the payment is income received, principal paid to a depository, or principal received from a depository, respectively. For income received, as indicated at block 510, the system updates the payment history in the storage area for the particular deposit contract involved. Then, at block 511, the system accumulates the total income received by the benefit structure in this period by summing the income for all deposit contracts. This information updates the system record, which contains data similar to Table 1, row 6.

FIG. 4C depicts system processing for principal paid to a depository. At block 534, the system determines whether this represents an investment in a new deposit contract, and if so, a new storage area for a deposit contract is created at block 537 to contain data similar to that listed in Table 1, row 5. Then the deposit contract storage area is updated at block 535 and the depository storage area is updated at block 536 to reflect the new increased balance. For principal received from a depository, as shown in FIG. 4, the depository storage area is updated at block 512 to reflect the new decreased balance and the deposit contract record storage area is marked redeemed at block 513.

Turning now to FIG. 4A, beginning with a storage area fetch as indicated at block 514, the system proceeds through block 521 to implement a scan of all subscriber storage areas stored in disk storage 103. For each subscriber area, process steps as indicated at blocks 515 to 520 are performed to determine the current value of each subscriber's total investment in the benefit structure, the total value of the benefit configuration, and the net total of all subscriber payments. All the subscriber's annuity contract storage areas are fetched at block 515. Subscriber net total payment is computed from these areas. The value of the investment of a dead subscriber, tested at block 516, is simply the final principal balance of all owned annuity contracts, which is updated at block 517. For a living subscriber, the current value of all annuity contracts is computed, by means known to those of skill in the art, at block 518. At block 520, the subscriber total investment current value and net payments are updated. At block 519, all the subscriber values and payments are summed to obtain the total value of the investment structure and the total net payment into the structure. These values update the system record.

Payment tracking means processing continues as depicted in FIG. 4B. Beginning with a storage fetch at block 522, the system proceeds through block 524 to implement another subscriber storage area scan during which each subscriber's percentage ownership of the benefit structure is computed at block 523. This is simply done by dividing the value of each subscriber's investment by the total value of the structure.

Beginning with a storage area fetch at block 525, the system proceeds through block 531 to implement a scan of

all depository storage areas stored in disk storage 103. For each depository area, process steps at blocks 526 to 530 are performed to determine the current deposit at each depository and the total deposits made by the benefit structure. This is simply done by fetching all deposit contracts for a depository, as indicated at block 526. If a contract is marked redeemed, at block 527, its storage area is deleted at block 528. The total of all deposits from all the deposit contracts updates the depository record at block 529. The depository totals are then summed to compute the total system deposit at block 530. This information updates the system record.

Finally the funds available for investment are computed at block 532 as the difference from the total net payments to the structure, from block 519, and the total deposits, from block 530. This information also updates the system record.

A detailed description of the trust payment means is depicted in FIG. 5. Trust payment means processing begins at block 601 and ends at block 609, after which the system proceeds to the next sequential process. Beginning with a storage area fetch at block 602, the system proceeds through block 608 to implement a scan of all trust areas stored in disk storage 103. For each trust area, process steps at blocks 603 to 607 are performed.

At block 603, the system computes the particular trust's percentage ownership of the benefit structure by dividing the trust's principal value by the total value of the benefit structure (from the system record). The income allocated to this trust is computed by multiplying this percentage by the total income for this period (from the system record), as indicated at block 604. Next, at block 605, the system fetches storage areas for all living subscribers assigned to this trust; at block 606, the system divides the allocated trust income ratably among these subscribers; and at block 607, the system generates data representing payment orders to pay such amounts to the subscribers. This data is transferred to portfolio and accounting system 111, to carry out these financial actions.

A detailed description of the key depository monitoring means is depicted in FIG. 6. Depository monitoring means processing begins at block 701 and ends at block 709, after which the system proceeds to the next sequential process. Beginning with a storage area at block fetch 702, the system proceeds through block 708 to implement a scan of all depository areas stored in disk storage 103. For each depository area, process steps at block 703 to 707 are performed.

At block 703, the system obtains the subscriber storage area with the maximum percentage ownership of the investment structure. (These percentages were computed at block 523). This percentage multiplied by this particular depository total deposit is computed at block 704. This must be less than the FDIC limit (currently \$100,000) in order that all subscribers be completely covered by FDIC insurance at this depository, as indicated at block 705. If this test is not met, at block 706 the system generates data representing deposit contract sell orders which will redeem sufficient deposit contracts such that this limit will be met. This sell order data is transferred to portfolio & accounting system 111 to carry out these financial actions.

A detailed description of the bidding means is depicted in FIG. 7. Bidding means processing begins at block 801 and ends at block 806, after which the system proceeds to the next sequential process. Beginning with a storage area fetch at block 802, the system proceeds through block 805 to implement a scan of all depository areas stored in disk storage 103. For each depository area, process steps at blocks 803 to 804 are performed.

At block 803, preferably by means of a telecommunications link (or alternatively by tape, manual, or other data exchange means), all depositories at which the benefit structure places deposits are queried for the terms of the deposit contracts currently being offered. Each depository responds with its most favorable deposit terms, for either fixed rate or indexed FDIC insured deposit contracts. The benefit structure, being a large depositor, will benefit from more favorable offers than individual subscribers could obtain. This data updates the depository storage area at block 804 for use in the next process step.

A detailed description of the investing means is depicted in FIG. 8. Investing means processing begins at block 901 and ends at block 905, after which the system proceeds to the next sequential process. At block 902, the system fetches from disk storage 103 the deposit contract offers of all depositories, which were previously stored by the bidding means at block 804. At block 903, the system sorts these in an order of attractiveness. For example, this may be in order of expected yield, as determined by the contract offer terms and interest rate forecast for future years. Computing such expected yield is a process well known in the financial arts. If no funds are available, as indicated at block 904, the investing process exits at block 905.

If funds are available, the next best deposit offer is selected at block 906 from the list generated at block 903. By a process identical to that detailed for the depository monitoring means, the subprocess indicated at block 907 checks to assure that, after investment in this offer, the FDIC limit will be met for this depository. If not, the process loops to try again at block 904. If so, then at block 908 the system generates data representing a deposit contract buy order. This buy order data is transferred to portfolio & accounting system 111 to carry out this financial action. The available funds are decremented at block 909. The process loops to try additional investment at block 904.

A detailed description of the reporting means is depicted in FIG. 9. Reporting means processing begins at block 1001 and ends at block 1007, after which the system exits from its processing for this period, as indicated in FIG. 2 at block 212. Subprocess steps at blocks 1002 to 1006 generate reports on all entities stored by the system in disk storage 103. These entities are listed in Table 1.

FIG. 9A details these report subprocesses, one for each type of entity. They begin processing at block 1008 and exit at block 1016. Beginning with a storage area fetch at block 1009, the system proceeds through block 1015 to implement a scan of all storage areas of the particular entity stored in disk storage 103. At block 1010, the system generates exception reports requiring immediate auditing or administrative attention. For example, exception conditions for subscribers may include a missed annuity premium; for depositories, an out of balance condition, etc. For the correct date, which may be weekly, quarterly, yearly, etc., at block 1013 the system generates detail reports, for example listing all entity instances, and summary reports, for example providing totals of various quantities of interest.

While it is apparent that the invention herein disclosed is well calculated to fulfill the objects above stated, it will be appreciated that numerous modifications and embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art and it is intended that the appended claims cover all such modifications and embodiments as fall within the true spirit and scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. A computer-based transactional system for managing an insured investment account structure including one or

more annuity contracts, each of the annuity contracts being owned by one or more individual beneficiaries and being paid for by one or more subscribers, premiums paid for the annuity contracts being invested in one or more depository accounts consisting of deposit contracts, insured by deposit insurance, at one or more financial institutions, said system comprising:

- computer processor means for processing data;
- storage means, coupled to said processor means, for storing data on a storage medium;
- depository monitoring means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data representing the depository accounts insured by deposit insurance and for ensuring that deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all beneficiaries; and
- payment tracking means, coupled to said processor means, said storage means and said depository monitoring means, for inputting data representing all transactions of the investment account structure and for computing ownership of a share of the investment account structure of each of one or more beneficiaries of each annuity contract;
- reporting means coupled to said processor means and said storage means for processing data and providing human readable reports on the subscribers, beneficiaries, annuity contracts, participating financial institutions, and depository accounts; and,
- bidding means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for inputting and processing data representing the depository accounts being offered by the participating financial institutions;
- said depository monitoring means including means for determining whether each ownership share of each depository account for each of said beneficiaries exceeds said deposit insurance and means to redeem deposit contracts to ensure that said deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all beneficiaries and to invest in additional deposit contracts so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all beneficiaries in all participating depository institutions.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said payment tracking means processes data representing premium payments from each subscriber and annuity payments made to each beneficiary and data representing interest payments from and principal payments from and to the depository institutions in order to activate said means to redeem and to invest so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

3. A computer-based transactional system for managing an investment account structure including one or more life insurance contracts, each of the life insurance contracts being owned by one or more individual subscribers for the benefit of one or more beneficiaries, premiums paid for the life insurance contracts being invested in one or more depository accounts consisting of deposit contracts for the benefit of said beneficiaries, insured by deposit insurance, at one or more financial institutions, said system comprising:

- computer processor means for processing data;
- storage means, coupled to said processor means, for storing data on a storage medium;
- depository monitoring means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data

representing the depository accounts and for ensuring the deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all beneficiaries; and

payment tracking means, coupled to said processor means, said storage means and said depository monitoring means, for inputting data representing all transactions of the investment account structure and for computing ownership of a share of the investment account structure of each of one or more beneficiaries of each annuity contract;

reporting means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data and providing human readable reports on the subscribers, beneficiaries, life insurance contracts, participating financial institutions, and depository accounts; and,

bidding means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for inputting and processing data representing the depository accounts being offered by the participating financial institutions;

said depository monitoring means including means for determining whether each ownership share of each depository account for each of said beneficiaries exceeds said deposit insurance and means to redeem deposit contracts to ensure that said deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all beneficiaries and to invest in additional deposit contracts so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said payment tracking means processes data representing premium payments from each subscriber and life insurance payments to each beneficiary and data representing interest payments from and principal payments from and to the depository institutions in order to activate said means to redeem and to invest so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

5. A computer-based transactional system for managing an insured investment account structure including one or more irrevocable trusts, each of the irrevocable trusts being funded by one or more individual subscribers and designating income beneficiaries and surviving residuary beneficiaries, with each subscriber's principal and/or income funds placed in a trust corpus in one of the irrevocable trusts, said principal and income funds being invested in one or more depository accounts consisting of deposit contracts, insured by deposit insurance, offered by one or more participating depository institutions, said system comprising:

- computer processor means for processing data;
- storage means, coupled to said processor means, for storing data on a storage medium;
- depository monitoring means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data representing the depository accounts and for ensuring the deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all income and residuary beneficiaries;

means for grouping and assigning income beneficiaries having similar actuarial characteristics into one of said designated irrevocable trusts, said means for grouping coupled to said processor means, said depository monitoring means, and said storage means;

payment tracking means, coupled to said processor means, said storage means and said depository monitoring means, for processing data representing all trans-

actions of the investment account structure and for computing each income beneficiary's percentage ownership of the investment account structure;

trust payment means, coupled to said processor means, said storage means and said depository monitoring means and said payment tracking means, for computing, upon the death of each income beneficiary, the payments to each remaining income beneficiary from said one of the irrevocable trusts and for computing, upon the death of a last income beneficiary, the pro rata distribution to all residuary beneficiaries designated by each subscriber from said one of the irrevocable trusts;

reporting means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data and providing human readable reports on the subscribers, beneficiaries, irrevocable trusts, participating depository institutions, and depository accounts; and,

bidding means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for inputting and processing data representing the depository accounts being offered by the participating depository institutions;

said depository monitoring means including means for determining whether each ownership share of each depository account for each of said income beneficiaries exceeds said deposit insurance and means to redeem deposit contracts to ensure that said deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all income beneficiaries and to invest in additional deposit contracts so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all income beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said storage means further comprises:

(a) means for initializing one or more areas in the storage medium to receive data representing each subscriber, each income beneficiary and each residuary beneficiary in each irrevocable trust, participating depository institution, and insured deposit contracts;

(b) means for inputting and storing data representing each subscriber, each income and residuary beneficiary for each irrevocable trust, each participating depository institution, and each insured deposit contract; and

(c) means for initializing and maintaining an area in the storage means to receive data representing the financial state of the investment account structure.

7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein payment tracking means processes data representing funding payments from each subscriber and income payments to each income beneficiary and data representing interest payments from and principal payments from and to the depository institutions in order to activate said means to redeem and to invest so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

8. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein payment tracking means computes each income beneficiary's percentage ownership of the investment account structure by comparing the value of each subscriber's investment with the total value of the investment account structure and adding a pro rata share of said income funds from decedent income beneficiaries thereto.

9. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said trust payment means computes each trust's income from data representing the percentage each trust's principal represents with respect to the total value of the investment account

structure and then computes each income beneficiary's income by dividing this trust income equally among all surviving income beneficiaries of this trust.

10. A computer-based transactional system for managing an insured investment account structure including one or more irrevocable trusts, each of the irrevocable trusts being funded by one or more individual subscribers and designating income beneficiaries and surviving residuary beneficiaries, with each subscriber's principal and/or income funds derived from one or more annuity contracts from said subscriber and placed in a trust corpus in one of the irrevocable trusts, said principal and income funds being invested in one or more depository accounts consisting of deposit contracts which are part of said annuity contracts, insured by deposit insurance, offered by one or more participating depository institutions, said system comprising;

computer processor means for processing data;

storage means, coupled to said processor means, for storing data on a storage medium;

depository monitoring means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data representing the depository accounts and for ensuring the deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all income and residuary beneficiaries;

means for grouping and assigning income beneficiaries having similar actuarial characteristics into one of said designated irrevocable trusts, said means for grouping coupled to said processor means, said depository monitoring means, and said storage means;

payment tracking means, coupled to said processor means, said storage means and said depository monitoring means, for processing data representing all transactions of the investment account structure and for computing each income beneficiary's percentage ownership of the investment account structure;

trust payment means, coupled to said processor means, said storage means and said depository monitoring means and said payment tracking means, for computing, upon the death of each income beneficiary, the payments to each remaining income beneficiary from said one of the irrevocable trusts and for computing, upon the death of a last income beneficiary, the pro rata distribution to all residuary beneficiaries designated by each subscriber from said one of the irrevocable trusts;

reporting means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for processing data and providing human readable reports on the subscribers, beneficiaries, irrevocable trusts, participating depository institutions, and depository accounts; and,

bidding means, coupled to said processor means and said storage means, for inputting and processing data representing the depository accounts being offered by the participating depository institutions;

said depository monitoring means including means for determining whether each ownership share of each depository account for each of said income beneficiaries exceeds said deposit insurance and means to redeem deposit contracts to ensure that said deposit insurance requirements are met for all depository accounts and all income beneficiaries and to invest in additional deposit contracts so that insurance requirements are met for the investment account structure for all income beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said storage means further comprises:

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(a) means for initializing one or more areas in the storage medium to receive data representing each subscriber, each income beneficiary and each residuary beneficiary in each irrevocable trust, participating depository institution, and insured deposit contracts;

(b) means for inputting and storing data representing each subscriber, each income and residuary beneficiary for each irrevocable trust, each participating depository institution, and each insured deposit contract; and

(c) means for initializing and maintaining an area in the storage means to receive data representing the financial state of the investment account structure.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein payment tracking means processes data representing finding payments from each subscriber and income payments to each income beneficiary and data representing interest payments from and principal payments from and to the depository institutions in order to activate said means to redeem and to invest so that insurance requirements are met for the invest-

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ment account structure for all beneficiaries in all participating institutions.

13. A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein payment tracking means computes each income beneficiary's percentage ownership of the investment account structure by comparing the value of each subscriber's investment with the total value of the investment account structure and adding a pro rata share of said income funds from decedent income beneficiaries thereto.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said trust payment means computes each trust's income from data representing the percentage each trust's principal represents with respect to the total value of the investment account structure and then computes each income beneficiary's income by dividing this trust income equally among all surviving income beneficiaries of this trust.

* * * * *



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United States Patent [19]

Hagan

[11] Patent Number: 5,631,828
[45] Date of Patent: *May 20, 1997

[54] METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING FEDERALLY INSURED ANNUITY AND LIFE INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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[*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend
beyond the expiration date of Pat. No.
5,291,398.

[21] Appl. No.: 265,198

[22] Filed: **Jun. 24, 1994**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 203,348, Feb. 28, 1994,
abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 911,401, Jul.
10, 1992, Pat. No. 5,291,398.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ G06F 17/60

[52] U.S. Cl. 395/204; 395/242

[58] Field of Search 364/401, 408

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Primary Examiner—Gail O. Hayes
Assistant Examiner—Gita D. Shingala

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Robert C. Kain, Jr.

[57] ABSTRACT

The method and computer-based system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring annuity or life insurance funds includes identifying and storing fund data, customer data, beneficiary data, and banking institution data. In one embodiment, banking institutions which hold non-annuity or non-life insurance funds for a particular beneficiary over a pre-determined initial amount are monitored. The system sums all funds, whether qualified or unqualified or annuity or life insurance funds, identified with a single beneficiary and held by the banking institutions. If the sum exceeds the predetermined fund limit, the system either commands the transfer of all additional or excess funds identified with that single beneficiary to another banking institution or transfers the excess funds into an account established for another annuity beneficiary which is a pre-approved beneficiary from a group initially identified by the customer. In a further embodiment, the system generates various reports showing banking institutions for each beneficiary, banking institutions for each beneficiary in the subset of approved beneficiaries, and the sum of all funds for each respective beneficiary. There are generally three methods employed by one or more aspects of the present system which ensure that the beneficiary's invested funds are protected with depositor's insurance. The system may continually monitor the qualified, unqualified and non-annuity or life insurance funds (e.g. daily or at least every two weeks), may periodically monitor these funds (e.g. quarterly) or may not directly and electronically monitor the funds (i.e. shift the reporting requirement and monitoring function to the customer or beneficiary).

48 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

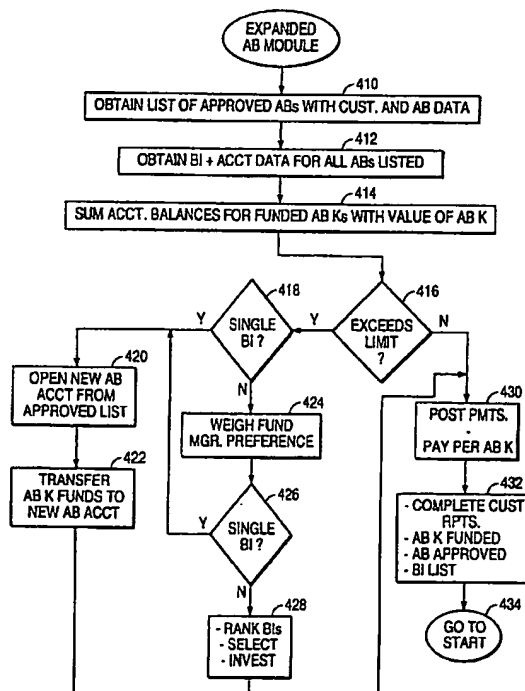
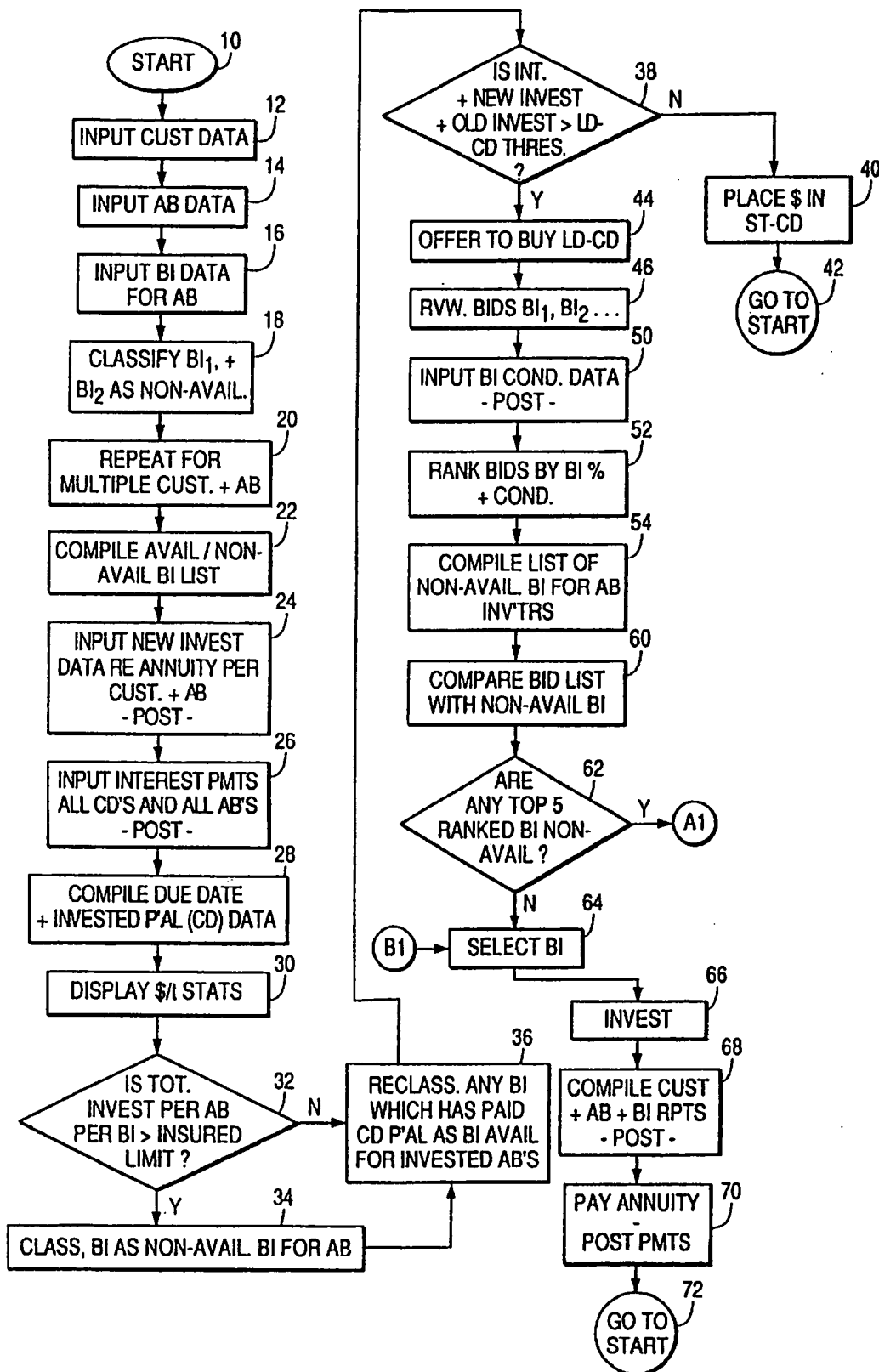


FIG. 1A



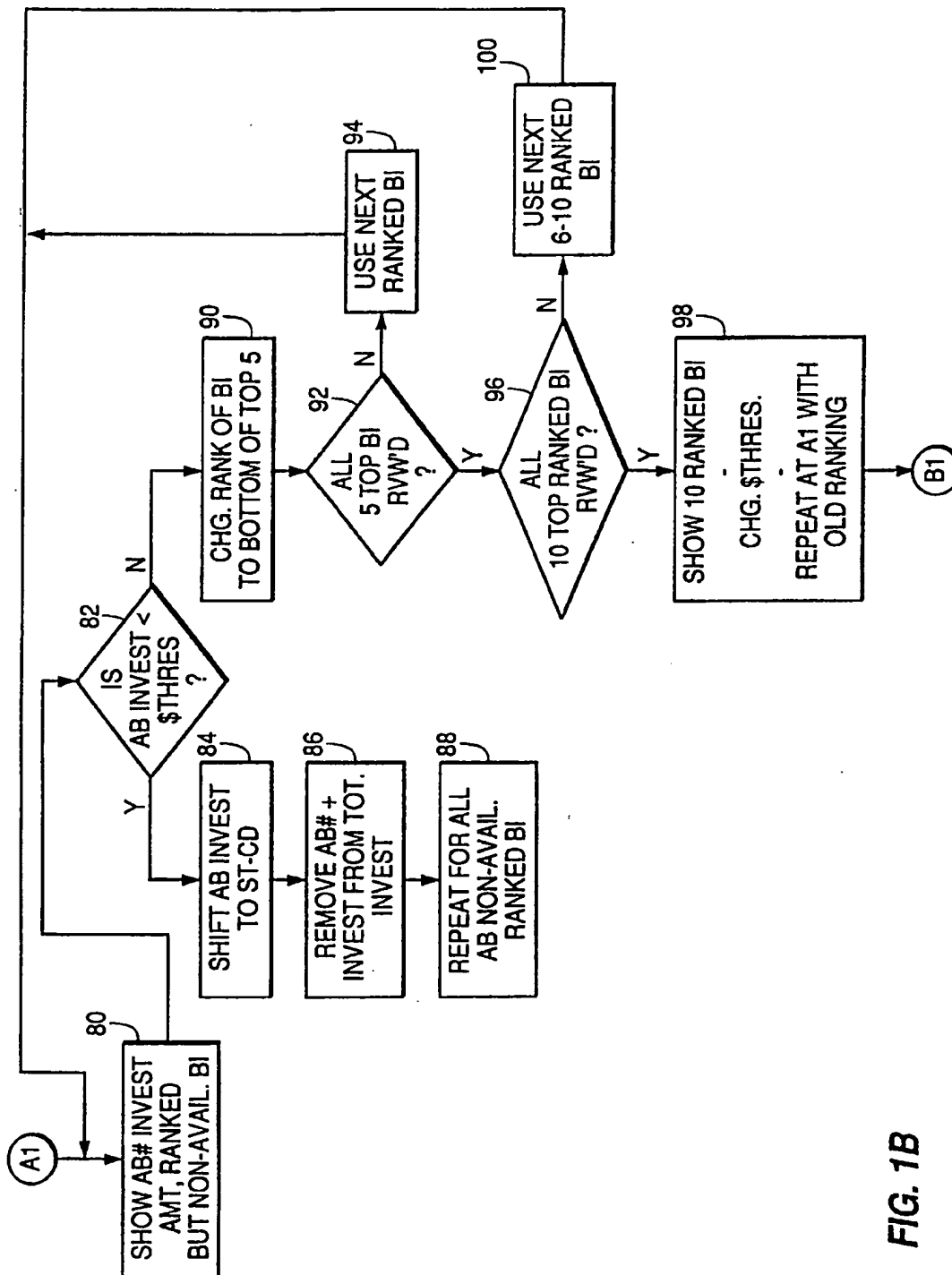


FIG. 1B

FIG. 2

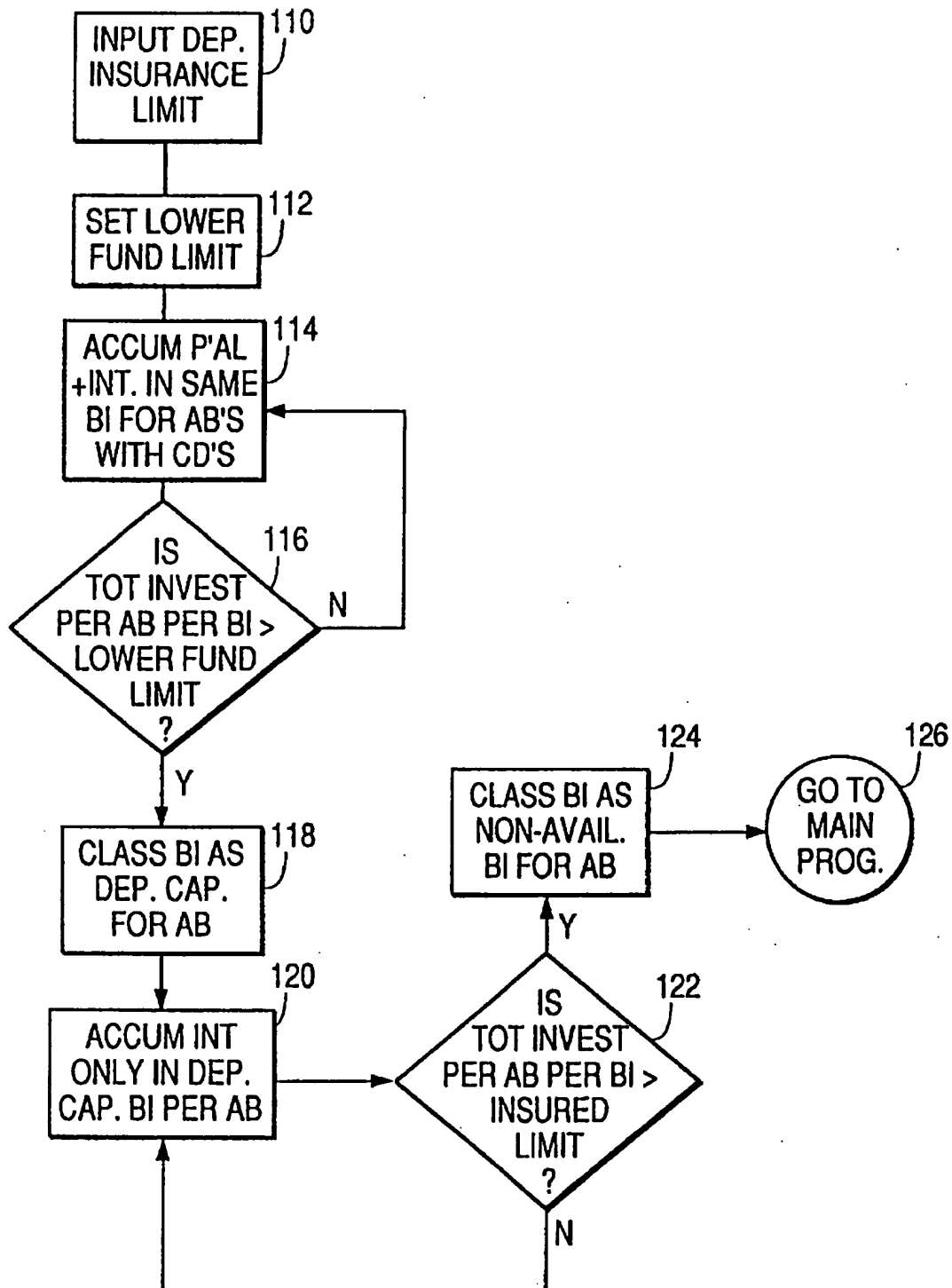


FIG. 3A

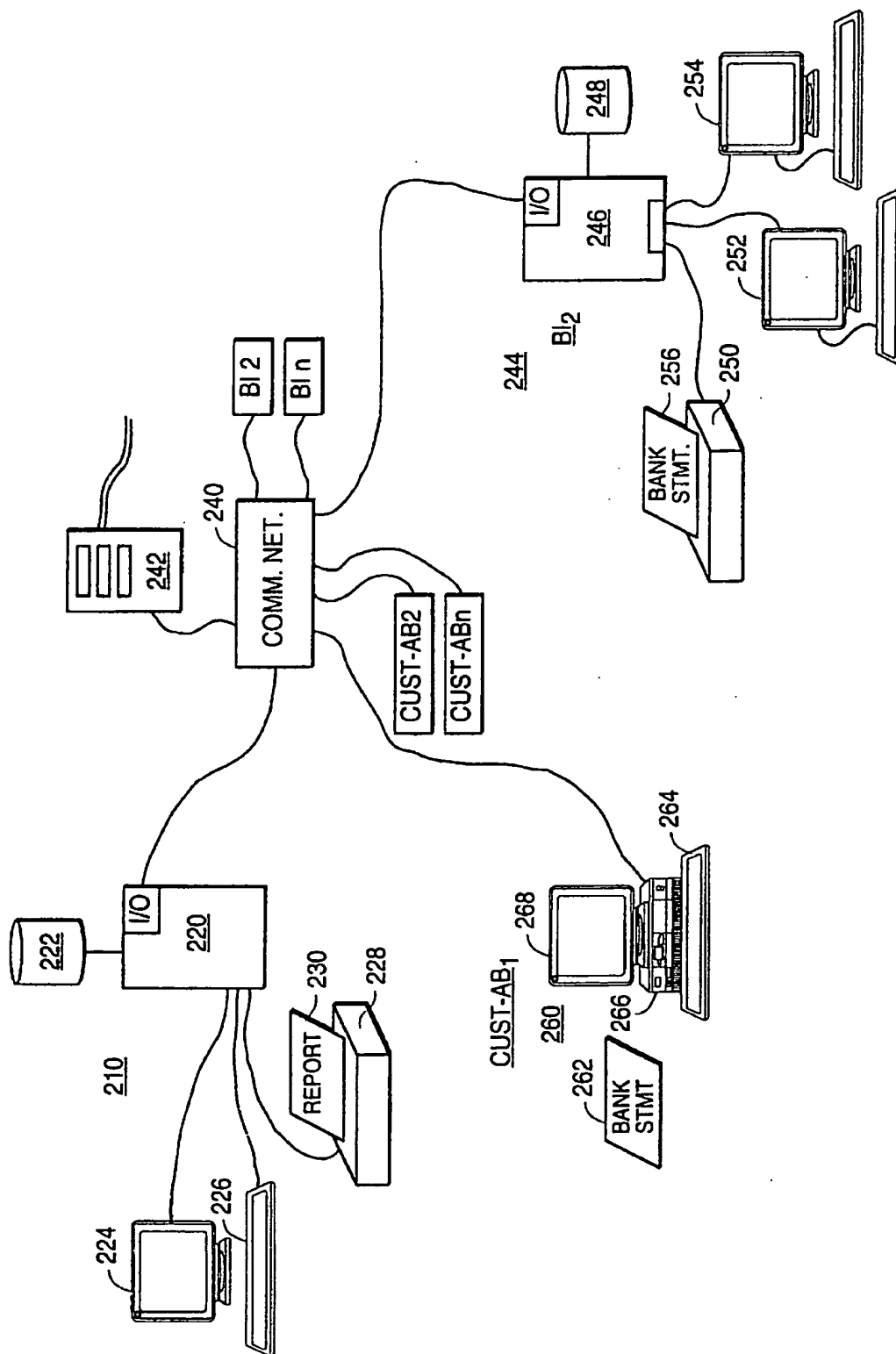


FIG. 3B

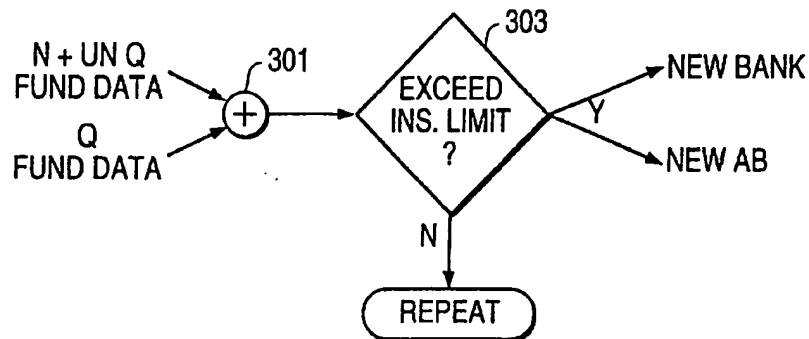


FIG. 3C

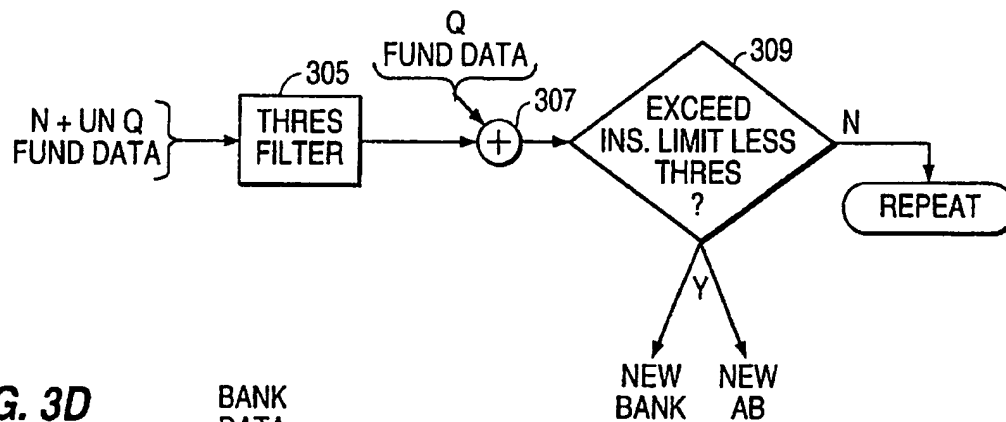


FIG. 3D

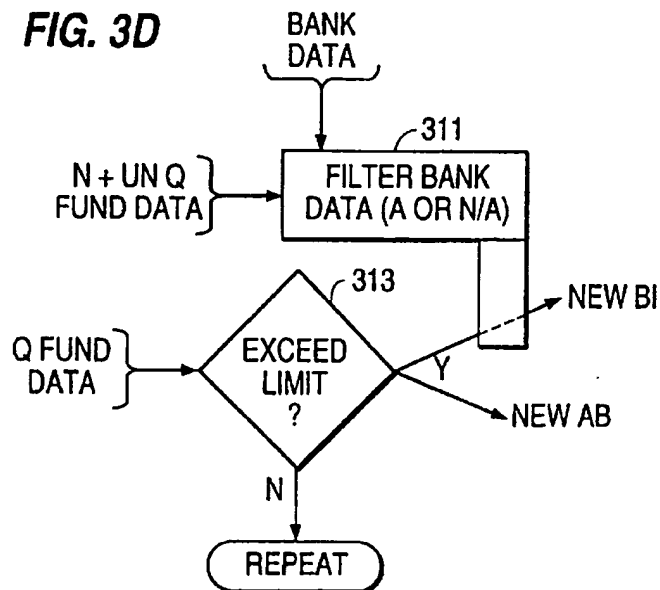


FIG. 4

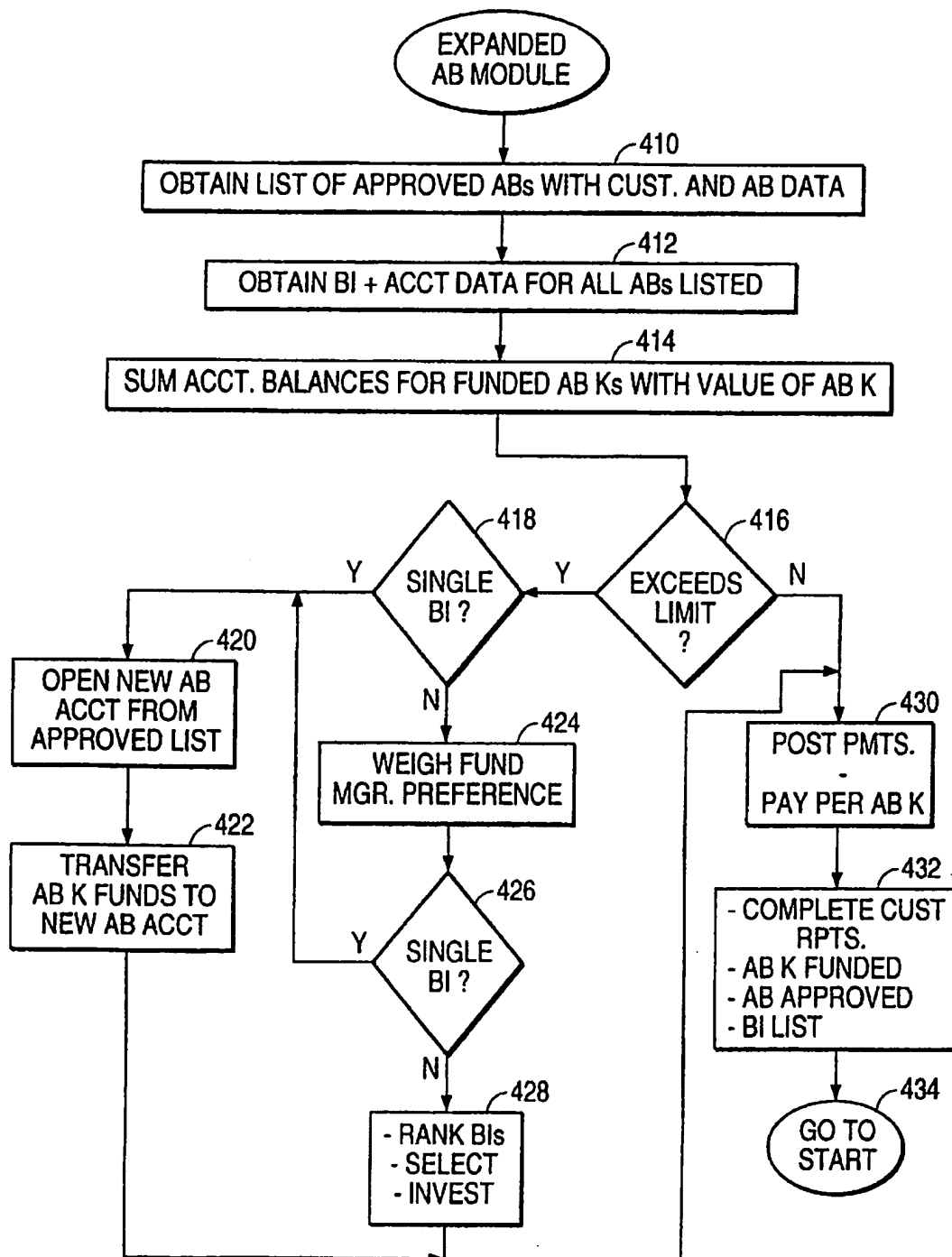


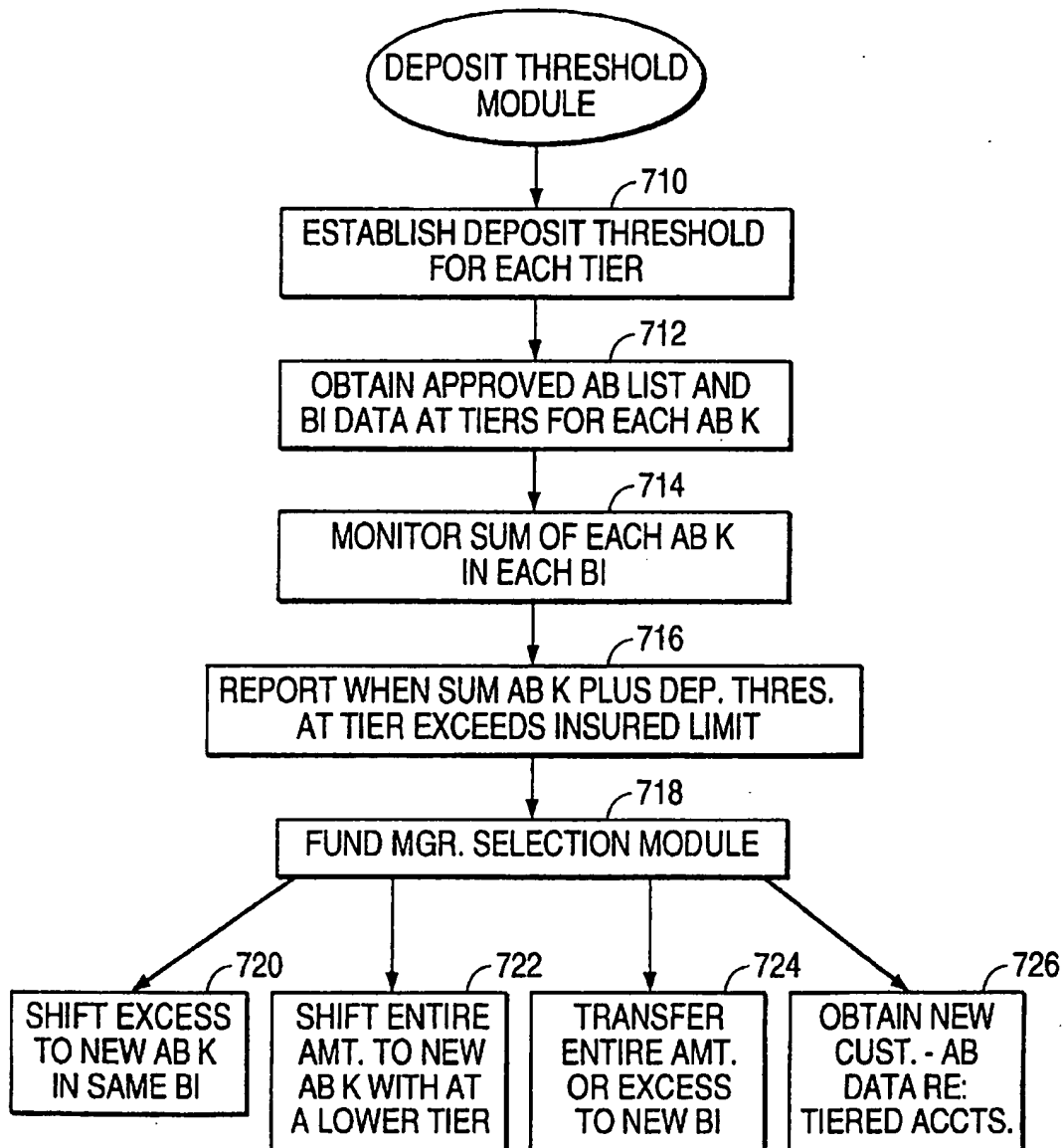
FIG. 5

FIG. 6

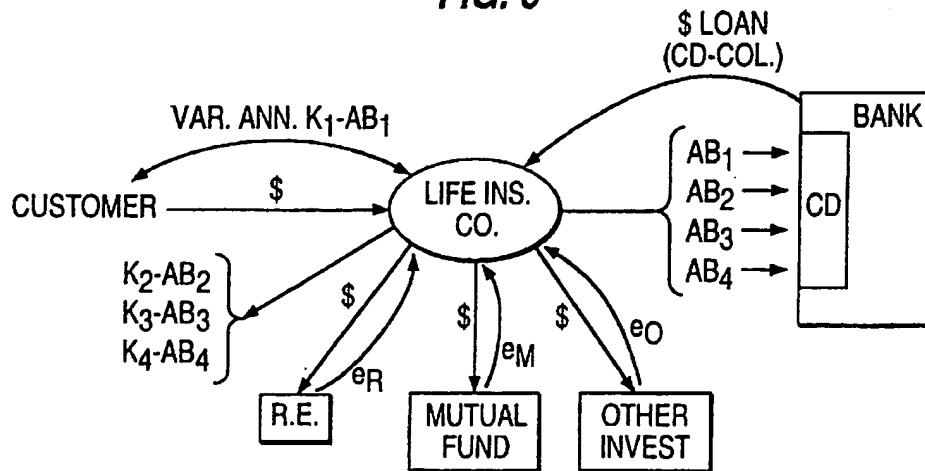


FIG. 7A

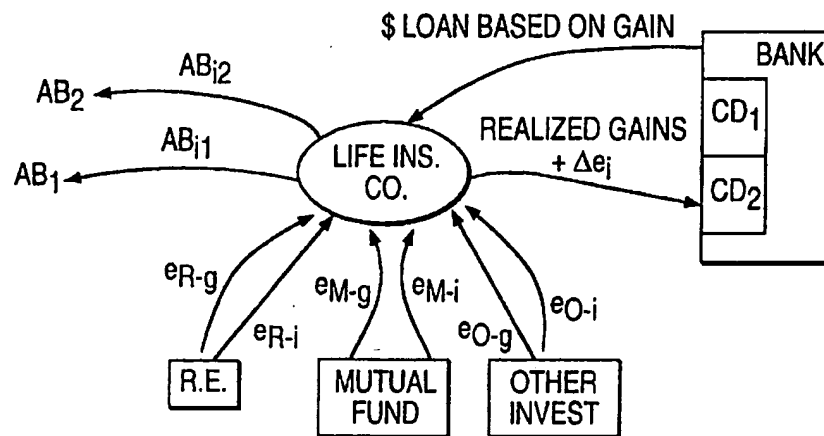


FIG. 7B

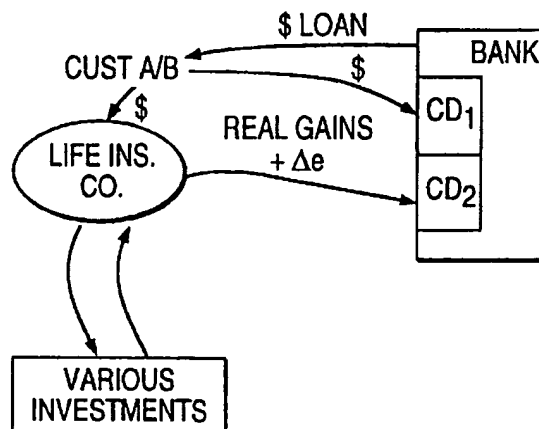
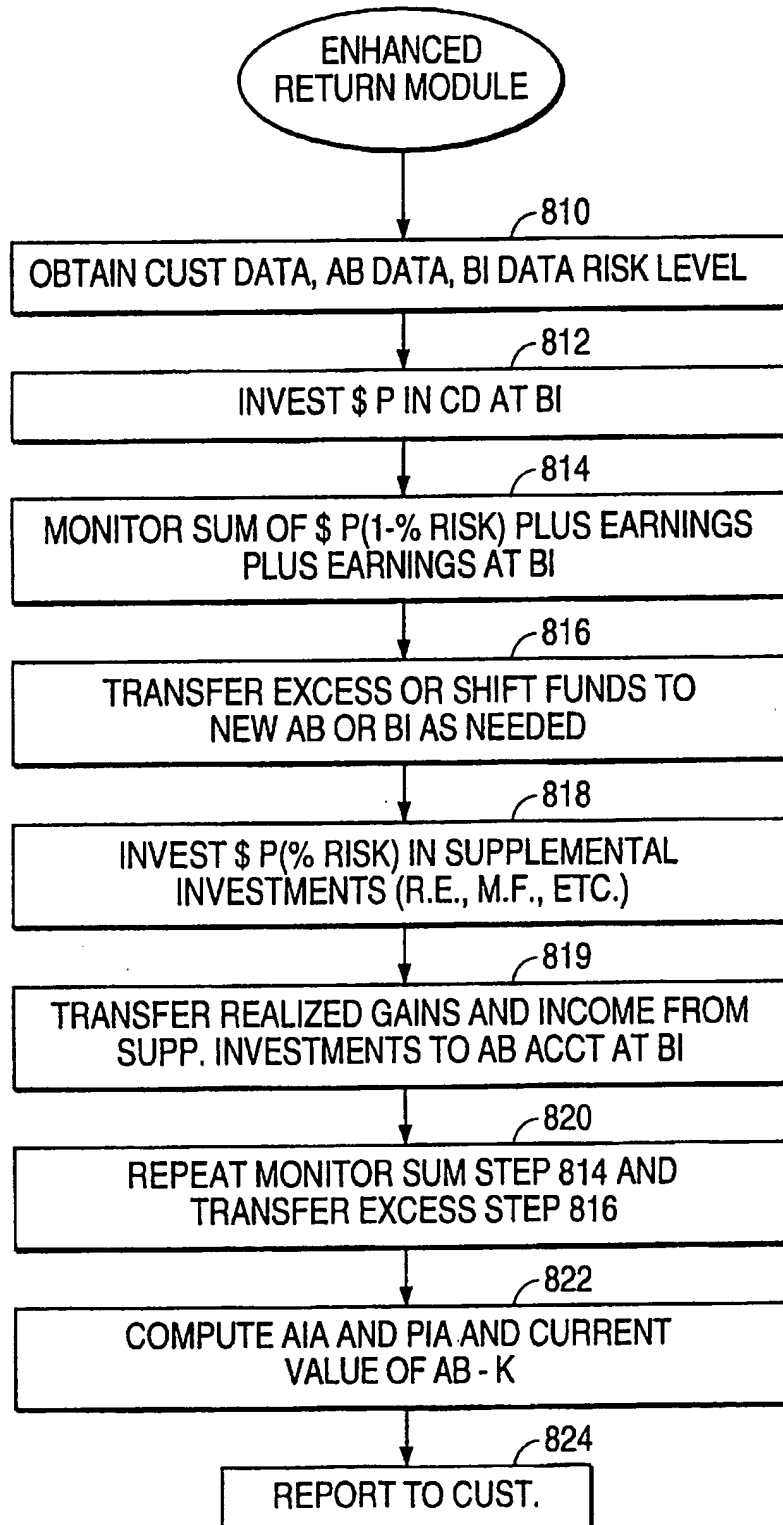


FIG. 8

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING FEDERALLY INSURED ANNUITY AND LIFE INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/203,348, filed on Feb. 28, 1994, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 07/911,401 filed Jul. 10, 1992, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,291,398 issued on Mar. 1, 1994.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and a system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds invested in a plurality of annuities or life insurance investments such that the invested funds are protected by depositor's insurance, such as FDIC insurance.

Federally approved banking institutions, and saving and loan institutions, pay premiums to the federal government such that money on deposit in those banking institutions is federally insured. If the banking institution becomes insolvent for any reason, the federal government pays the depositor for any losses up to an established insured limit. At present, deposits are insured up to \$100,000.00. There is a regulation which provides that funds deposited by life insurance companies or a corporation solely to fund life insurance or annuity contracts will be insured up to the depositor's insurance limit (\$100,000.00) per individual (annuitant) entitled to receive benefits under the contract. The persons entitled to receive benefits under an annuity contract are called herein "annuity beneficiaries" whether those persons are legally classified as annuitants or as beneficiaries. An annuity contract is a contract that pays an annuity beneficiary an amount at regular intervals or pays an annuity beneficiary a lump sum at a predetermined time in the future. The annuity may be a variable annuity which pays a beneficiary variable returns from various investments, over a period of time or at a certain time, based upon certain financial conditions, i.e. S & P 500 index, or may be fixed annuity which pays the beneficiaries a fixed or set sum of money over a period of time. The annuity contract is funded or provided for by a customer. Essentially, the customer pays a certain amount of money to a company, the company invests that money, and the company at a certain time in the future or at regular intervals pays the annuity beneficiary a prescribed amount as required under the annuity contract. Annuity beneficiaries are sometimes called "annuitants."

Some types of annuity contracts are deferred annuity contracts. Deferred annuity contracts allow funds to be accumulated on a tax deferred basis over the term of the contract and pay a lump sum or make periodic payments to annuitants at a certain time in the future. For example, a customer may fund a deferred annuity and, upon retirement of the customer, the company holding the annuity pays the customer either a lump sum or periodic payments as selected by the annuitant. In this example, the contract is annuitized upon retirement of the customer. If the contract is surrendered during early years, there are surrender penalties. If there are partial withdrawals, penalties sometimes apply. Interest if withdrawn is reportable as income in the year of withdrawal.

In order to obtain the benefit of the depositor's insurance, the corporation holding the annuity must establish an internal account for the annuity beneficiary and place the funds on deposit with a federally approved institution (FDIC institution). However, the corporation can accumulate and combine investments for a number of annuity beneficiaries

and invest that aggregate sum with a single banking institution. The regulations provide that, in the event the banking institution becomes insolvent, the federal agency providing the depositors' insurance will pay the depositors up to the established depositor's insurance limit value.

Tax deferred annuities are presently being marketed throughout the United States by life insurance companies. Tax law presently allows interest earnings in tax deferred annuity accounts to accumulate tax free until withdrawn. Consequently, this form of annuity has become a popular investment, particularly for those saving for their retirement years. However, funds invested in deferred annuities are not federally insured. There have been losses suffered by purchasers of annuities due to the inability of some insurance companies to remain solvent. This is particularly devastating for anyone depending on annuity income for support during retirement years. It would be a great benefit if the features of tax deferred annuities could be combined with federal deposit insurance.

Funds deposited in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) banks solely to fund annuities or life insurance contracts are currently insured up to \$100,000.00 for each annuitant. Present FDIC regulations permit this to be done. A system that enables life insurance and annuity companies to place annuity funds or life insurance funds so as to be covered by federal deposit insurance without exceeding those limitations and which continually monitors accounts for the same purpose, performs a valuable service for the customer.

Individuals that presently have funds in banks can maintain their deposits in different categories of legal ownership which makes it possible to have more than \$100,000.00 insurance coverage in a single institution. This is true only if the funds are owned and deposited in different ownership categories. Individuals almost always monitor their deposits in savings institutions so as to maintain full insurance coverage at all times. However, if such individuals purchase a tax deferred annuity that is to be deposited in an insured institution, the responsibility to monitor such funds as to their insurability shifts to the insurance or annuity company. A problem immediately arises since a multi-state life insurance company collecting premiums from thousands of contract holders throughout the U.S. could inadvertently fund an annuitant's contract by depositing funds in an institution in which the annuitant already has a standard deposit, savings account or certificate of deposit. If the funds deposited by the insurance company and the already existing account in that same institution are maintained in the same category of legal ownership, FDIC regulations require that the insured limit must be applied to the combined total amount held within each category. This could result in funds being without insurance coverage. This would be a violation of the contract on the part of the insurance or annuity company that promised to place the funds so as to be federally insured. Given that a multiplicity of insurance companies would be depositing funds in a multiplicity of banks involving annuity accounts from thousands of customers, a system needs to be devised that would safeguard annuity purchasers from the risk of uninsured accounts, and which would enable insurance companies to meet their contractual obligations. Such a system must also periodically monitor accounts focusing on the impact of interest additions to all accounts and the impact thereof as it relates to insurance limits.

Life insurance companies also sell various types of life insurance financial products. For example, whole life, term life and universal life insurance financial products are sold by these companies. As stated earlier, funds deposited by life

insurance companies solely to fund life insurance contracts will be insured up to the depositor's insurance limit per beneficiary entitled to receive benefits under the contract.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and a computer-based system for processing transactional data and monitoring funds of a plurality of annuities whereby the funds are fully protected by depositor's insurance.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and a computer-based system which monitors the value of each annuity beneficiary's fund placed in each banking institution such that the total amount of funds, both principal and interest, plus any non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds, in each banking institution is less than a predetermined fund limit (which may be equal to or less than the depositor's insurance limit).

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and a computer-based system which classifies, in certain instances, banking institutions as being non-available institutions when the annuity fund in a respective institution for a particular annuity beneficiary exceeds the predetermined fund limit.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a method and a computer-based system which transfers funds in excess of the insured limit to another available banking institution or transfers the excess to another account established for a pre-approved annuity beneficiary associated with or related to the primary annuity beneficiary.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The method and computer-based system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring annuity funds includes identifying and storing annuity fund data, customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data. In one embodiment, banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds for a particular annuity beneficiary over a pre-determined initial amount are classified as non-available banking institutions for that beneficiary. In another embodiment, the institutions are not labeled but all non-annuity funds are monitored at the bank. The system sums all funds, whether qualified or unqualified or non-annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and held by the banking institutions. In one embodiment, if the sum exceeds the predetermined fund limit, that identified banking institution is classified as a non-available banking institution for that particular annuity beneficiary. For both embodiments, the system either commands the transfer of all additional or excess annuity funds identified with that single annuity beneficiary to another banking institution or transfers the excess funds into an account established for another annuity beneficiary which is a pre-approved beneficiary from a group initially identified by the customer.

In a further embodiment, the system generates various reports showing banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary, banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary in the subset of approved beneficiaries, and the sum of all annuity funds for each respective annuity beneficiary. One version of the method and computer-based system stores and processes information regarding purchased certificates of deposit (CDs) and the due dates of those CDs such that when a particular CD becomes due and the principal is returned to the investment annuity company, the system declassifies the issuing banking institution from non-available to available for a particular annuity beneficiary or group of beneficiaries.

There are generally three methods employed by one or more aspects of the present system which ensure that the beneficiary's invested funds are protected with depositor's insurance. The system may continually monitor the qualified, unqualified and non-annuity funds (e.g. daily or at least every two weeks), may periodically monitor these funds (e.g. quarterly) or may not directly and electronically monitor the funds (i.e. shift the reporting requirement and monitoring function to the customer or beneficiary). The monitoring may encompass a single bank or multiple banks. To ensure that the sum of the funds do not exceed the insured limit, the sum can be compared to a lower pre-determined fund limit such that unqualified and non-annuity funds below a predetermined depositor's threshold do not affect the insurability of the qualified annuity funds in the institution. Otherwise the actual value of the unqualified and non-annuity funds is ascertained by the computer-based system and the system uses that data to ensure that the total value of the investments in the bank do not exceed the depositor's insurance.

Diversification of the annuity investments and conversion of realized gains and earnings into the insured annuity fund are also covered and processed by the present system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Further objects and advantages of the present invention can be found in the detailed description of the preferred embodiments when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGS. 1A and 1B diagrammatically illustrate the method and system for processing transactional data for annuities;

FIG. 2 diagrammatically illustrates a method and system permitting the accumulation of interest in a particular banking institution;

FIG. 3A diagrammatically illustrates the major components of a system to continually, periodically or nominally monitor the funds and investments;

FIGS. 3B, 3C and 3D diagrammatically illustrate data flow charts showing continual, periodic and nominal monitoring of qualified funds;

FIG. 4 diagrammatically illustrates an expanded or approved list beneficiary module or program;

FIG. 5 diagrammatically illustrates a front end or deposit threshold module with tiers;

FIGS. 6, 7A and 7B diagrammatically illustrate fund and data flow charts; and

FIG. 8 diagrammatically illustrates a diversified or enhanced return system module.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention relates to a method and a system for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds invested in a plurality of annuities in order to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions.

FIGS. 1A and 1B show the method and processing system, in diagrammatic flow chart form, which accomplish the objects and advantages set forth above.

The program starts in FIG. 1A at start step 10. In step 12, customer data is input into the system. This customer data may be kept as a customer record that includes the customer's name, address, customer identification number, social security number, and identifiers for each annuity contract

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funded or provided by the customer. The term "annuity beneficiary" as used herein covers any category of ownership in which an annuity contract can be held including individual accounts, joint accounts, various trust accounts, and any other legal form of ownership. For example, customer 1 may have annuity #1 which designates a single individual who will receive money when the contract is annuitized. That individual is classified herein as annuity beneficiary AB₁. AB₁ may be the customer himself or herself. The customer may also have a second annuity contract, annuity #2, which is held in joint names, e.g., husband and wife. This joint ownership is classified herein as a single annuity beneficiary AB₁₀. The system described herein incorporates this concept.

To further explain this aspect of the invention, the governmental regulations view each of the following legal entities as a separate "depositor" covered by depositor's interest: (a) an individual; (b) the individual's spouse; (c) a joint account with the individual and his or her spouse; (d) a trust account controlled by the individual for the benefit of his or her spouse; (e) the individual's child's account; etc. There are approximately 12-14 different legal entities which qualify as a separate depositor under the government insurance program. The regulations for these depositor insurance programs classify funds based upon right, title and interest in the funds.

In step 14, information is input into the system regarding each annuity beneficiary AB. Table 1 below shows an exemplary annuity beneficiary record.

TABLE 1

Initial Annuity Beneficiary Record	
AB Name, Add., AB# (e.g., AB ₁)	
BI data	
AB ₁ — BI ₁ is checking and savings	
AB ₁ — BI ₂ is savings — unqualified annuity	
BI ₁ and BI ₂ classified as non-available for AB ₁	

In Table 1, the name, address, and identification number have been assigned to annuity beneficiary AB₁. In addition, AB₁ may have checking and savings accounts at a banking institution (BI) which is designated as BI₁. Annuity beneficiary AB₁ may also have a savings account such as a certificate of deposit (CD) in another banking institution BI₂. This CD held by BI₂ may be part of an unqualified annuity fund. The use of the term "unqualified" herein does not refer to whether the beneficiary obtains the benefit of special tax considerations but rather refers to an annuity that is not immediately protectable under depositor's insurance program as monitored by the present invention. In a preferred embodiment, banking institutions BI₁ and BI₂ are as classified as non-available banking institutions for annuity beneficiary AB₁. In another embodiment, banks BI₁ and BI₂ are classified "non-available" only if the annuity beneficiary's account exceeds a predetermined threshold, e.g., \$0, \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$30,000. This classification step is similar to classifying a bank as "deposit capped" explained later herein.

Step 16 involves inputting banking institution BI data for each annuity beneficiary AB. Step 18 classifies the banking institution as available or non-available. For example, with respect to beneficiary AB₁, banking institutions BI₁ and BI₂

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are classified as non-available. Step 20 involves repeating the inputting and classifying steps 12, 14, 16 and 18 for multiple customers and annuity beneficiaries. Step 22 compiles a matrix or list of banking institutions which are available and non-available. Table 2 below provides an exemplary list.

TABLE 2

Banking Institution Matrix			
BI#	AVAIL	NON-AVAIL	CONDITION
BI ₁	AB _{2,3,4,n}	AB ₁	A
BI ₂	AB _{3,4,n}	AB _{1,2}	A
BI ₃	AB _{3,n}	AB _{2,4}	A
BI ₄	AB _{1,2,3,n}	AB ₄	B
BI ₅	AB _{1,3,4,n}	AB ₂	A
BI ₆	AB _{1,2,4,n}	AB ₃	C
BI ₇	—	—	A
BI _n	AB _{1,...,n-1}	AB _n	A

Table 2 generally shows banking institutions BI₁ through BI_n and whether that institution is available for certain beneficiaries and not available for other beneficiaries. Additionally, the banking institution matrix shows the condition of the bank (A-B) which is directly related to the capital/debt ratio of the bank as well as other factors. An A quality bank is the highest rated bank. These ratings are known in the banking industry. Since a high quality financial product is provided by the present system, annuity funds invested in conjunction with the present system will normally be invested in only top quality banks. As stated earlier, the term "banking institution" includes all federally approved banks and savings and loans. These banking institutions must offer depositors deposit insurance which protects depositors' funds up to a predetermined insurance limit. The banking institution matrix, Table 2, shows that institution BI₁ can be used as an available institution by annuity beneficiaries AB₂, AB₃, AB₄, and AB_n. In contrast, institution BI₁ is classified as non-available for annuity beneficiary AB₁. This initial classification of banking institutions and identification of the annuity beneficiaries' banking institutions may be necessary in order to insure that, in the event of failure of that particular banking institution, the entire annuity fund invested for each beneficiary using the present system is fully insured. If an annuity beneficiary has bought a CD from a particular banking institution or otherwise has funds on deposit and that information has not been entered into the system, the federal deposit insurance may not cover both the investment made under the annuity fund provided by the present system and the independent investment by the annuity beneficiary. In order to provide a high degree of security, the present system gathers initial information regarding the banks used by annuity beneficiaries and classifies those banking institutions as non-available for the protected annuity monitored by the system.

By monitoring (a) the legal entity recognized as a "qualified and insured depositor" (per the governmental regulations) herein "the annuity beneficiary" and (b) the initial and the current amount in each bank attributable to the annuity beneficiary, the present system provides a financial product (an annuity contract or a life insurance contract) which is insured under depositor's insurance. The monitoring involves accumulating initial data regarding the amount

and whereabouts of the beneficiary's funds, monitoring those funds, monitoring the funds associated with the particular contract identified with the beneficiary, and moving excess funds when the sum total exceeds a predetermined amount which is normally a pre set amount near the insured limit (currently insured up to \$100,000.00). As can be seen in Table 2, institution BI₁ is available for all annuity beneficiaries since there are no beneficiaries who use that institution. Additionally, BI₁ is rated as an A institution.

In step 24, information regarding new investments is input into the system. These new investments could be initial investments by the customer to fund an annuity or could be periodic payments by the customer to fund the annuity. These new investments are posted both to the customer records as well as to the annuity beneficiary records. This dual posting is necessary, because the customer will want a full accounting of all payments made into his or her annuity fund and the funds associated with each particular annuity beneficiary must be completely and accurately monitored in order to insure that each annuity beneficiary is protected under the federal depositors' insurance program. As stated earlier, the deposit insurance runs to the annuity contract owner, and the beneficiary may or may not be the customer. For example, a husband may fund an annuity for the benefit of his wife. In that case, the annuity beneficiary (annuitant/contract owner) would be the customer's wife. If the annuity investment or accumulated income plus the principal exceeds \$100,000.00 in any particular banking institution (the current regulatory limit for depositors' insurance), the wife's insurable interest would be capped at \$100,000.00. Accordingly, it is important to account for all investments made by the customers to fund one or more annuities and also to carefully account and monitor the value of each annuity contract and post that value to an annuity beneficiary record.

In step 26, data is input into the system to post all interest payments made by all institutions on certificates of deposit purchased from those institutions. These interest payments are collected for the benefit of particular annuity beneficiaries. As stated earlier, the company holding the annuity simply establishes an internal account for each annuity beneficiary. The company purchases one or more CDs sold by one or more banking institutions. As long as the internal accounts by the annuity company are not subject to claims by the company's creditors and are specifically designated for the benefit of an annuity beneficiary, the regulations regarding depositor's insurance provide that the annuity beneficiary's investment in a CD or other depository account of a particular banking institution is protected up to the insurable limit.

In step 28, the system compiles due date information for each CD, that is, the principal invested in the CD, the interest generated thereby, and the term of the CD and the interest payment dates. Step 30 involves displaying a money versus time statistic chart. In order to assist the investment manager, it is helpful to know when one or more CDs are coming due, the total investment in the CDs, and all interest payments that have been received or will be received from various banking institutions. This statistical money versus time chart will enable the investment manager to plan both short term and long term CD investments and match those investments with available aggregate funds. Of course, these aggregate funds include new customer annuity investments.

Decision step 32 determines whether the total investment for each annuity beneficiary in each banking institutions exceeds or is greater than an insured limit. The insured limit may be either the actual, government established, depositor's insurance limit value or may be another, lower predetermined insured limit established by the system operator. For example, the current established depositor's limit value is set at \$100,000.00. The system operator may, in order to increase the security of the funds, set a lower limit at \$90,000.00. In any event, a decision is made in step 32 to determine whether a total investment, both principal and interest, for each annuity beneficiary in each banking institution exceeds the insured limit. If the insured limit per AB and per BI exceeds the insured limit, the YES branch is taken and in step 34, that particular banking institution is classified as non-available (NON-AVAIL) for that particular annuity beneficiary. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 32, that is, the insured limit has not been exceeded by the total investment per AB and per BI, step 36 requires re-classification of any banking institution that has returned or paid a CD as an available (AVAIL) banking institution for all annuity beneficiaries who had designated funds in that CD. Step 36 also follows step 34.

The total investment described above in step 32 for a particular bank BI₁ and a particular beneficiary AB_x, may include independent investments owned by or attributable to AB_x (described earlier with respect to Table 2), which has been entered into the system at step 14, the current value of those independent investments (provided by AB_x or reported to the system by the bank BI₁), and the current value of AB_x's qualified annuity fund amount which is covered by the presently described system and protected by depositor's insurance in bank BI₁.

Next, decision step 38 determines whether the interest, input in step 26, the new investments paid by a customer, input in step 24, plus the old investments from redeemed CDs exceed a large denomination certificate of deposit (LD-CD) threshold. Generally, an LD-CD is a CD of \$5,000, 000.00 or higher having a term of at least three years. Historically, these time deposits have a much higher rate of return as compared to individually purchased, smaller denomination short term CDs. If the threshold is not exceeded, the NO branch is taken and in step 40, the total investment is placed in short term CDs (ST-CD). In step 42, the system returns to start step 10. The LD-CD threshold may be set by the system operator, for example, at \$10,000, 000.00.

In order to better understand the present invention, Tables 3 and 4 below show the investment matrix or list and an expanded annuity beneficiary record. With respect to the investment matrix, and as an example, banking institution BI₁ has sold a large denomination certificate of deposit to the annuity, or insurance company. The LD-CD is a \$10,000, 000.00 CD which falls due in seven years. This \$10,000, 000.00 was invested by the annuity company at time *t*. Interest is paid quarterly on the LD-CD at X% and the interest is automatically placed in a short term (ST-CD) having a three month maturity and paying interest at X-2.0%. The withdrawal penalty on the ST-CD is 0.25% interest.

TABLE 3

		Investment Matrix							Total
	Time	CD	AB ₁	AB ₂	AB ₃	...	AB ₉	...	
BI	t ₁	LD ₁	90K	45K	72K		—		10M
BI ₇	t ₂	ST	—	—	—		—		—
		LD ₁	90K	45K	72K		—		10M
	t ₃	ST ₁	10K	5K	7.5K		—		1.2K
		LD ₁	90K	45K	72K		—		10M
BI ₈	t ₃	ST ₂	10K	10K	15K		80K		2.4K
		ST ₃	11K	—	—		—		11K

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The investment matrix, Table 3, shows that at time t₁, the company operating the present system has invested in long term CD LD₁ and various annuity beneficiaries have accounts associated with or designating that LD₁. For example, annuity beneficiary AB₁ has \$90,000.00 invested (90K). Beneficiary AB₃ has invested \$72,000.00 (72K). Annuity beneficiary AB₉ has not invested in LD₁ at time t₁. Annuity beneficiary AB_n has invested \$10,000.00 (10K). At time t₁, there is no short term (ST) CD issued by institution BI₇. At time t₂, which is the first quarterly interest payment date for LD₁, each annuity beneficiary has the same amount of principal designated for LD₁. However, according to the terms of the agreement with institution BI₇, a second, short term CD, ST₁, has been opened into which all the interest from LD₁ is swept. Accordingly, the records of the company issuing the federally insured annuities show that annuity beneficiary AB₁ has a designated 10K in CD ST₁ issued by institution BI₇, beneficiary AB₂ has 5K invested in ST₁, and beneficiary AB_n has 1.2K invested in that CD. The interest amounts shown in Table 3 are fictitious and simply provide examples for the operation of the system. At time t₃, which is the second quarterly payment date for LD₁, the interest has been rolled over into a second short term CD, ST₂. However, because beneficiary AB₁ is at the government insured limit of \$100,000.00, his or her allocation has been shifted to a second banking institution BI₈ and placed in short term CD deposit ST₃. Accordingly, AB₁ has a designated investment of \$11,000.00 (11K) in short term CD ST₃ sold by institution BI₈ as well as a 10K designated investment in ST₂ at institution BI₇. The other beneficiaries AB₂, AB₃, and AB_n, have had their interest payments rolled directly over into short term CD ST₂. The investment by or for beneficiary AB₉, that is 80K, is a new investment by the customer funding that particular annuity contract. Accordingly, annuity beneficiary AB₁ has reached the insured limit in institution BI₇ and BI₇ is then classified as a non-available banking institution for annuity beneficiary AB₁. However, BI₇ is still classified as available for AB₂, AB₃, AB_n, and AB₉, although AB₉ is near the predetermined insurance limit of \$100,000.00.

Table 4 which follows shows an expanded annuity beneficiary record.

TABLE 4

Expanded Annuity Beneficiary Record						
Basic Data						
Cust ₁ ; Annuity #1; AB ₁						
NON-AVAIL. BI = BI _{1,2} note: checking and savings BIs						
NON-AVAIL. BI = BI ₇ note: maximum reached at t ₃						
Investment Data						
BI#	Inst'mt #	Invest Date	P'al	Est. Int.	Period	Due Date
BI ₇	LD ₁	t ₁	90K	10K	Qtrly	t ₁ + 7 yrs
BI ₇	ST ₁	t ₂	10K	1K	Qtrly	t ₂ + 3 mths
BI ₈	ST ₂	t ₃	11K	1.01K	Qtrly	t ₃ + 3 mths

The basic record includes customer data, that is, who is funding the annuity, and annuity contract identifier (annuity #1) and an annuity beneficiary identifier (AB₁). The basic record also includes a record of non-available institutions. BI₁ and BI₂ and includes a remark stating that those institutions are checking and savings for AB₇. Institution BI₇, which was classified as non-available at time t₃ due to the level of funds in that designated institution. The expanded annuity beneficiary record also includes investment records. The investment record is broken down into banking institution BI₇ and BI₈, includes instrument numbers CD#, initial investment dates t₁, t₂ and t₃, principal investments made in those particular CDs, estimated interest payments, the interest due dates, and the CD due date. The investment record for each particular annuity beneficiary can also be used as certificate of deposit data for compiling the money and time statistics in step 30. If, for example, a significant influx of new investments was gathered by the system operator (450K) and interest of 50K was available in two weeks and if a 500K short term CD was available in three weeks, the system operator may choose to accept the interest penalty on the 500K short term CD and purchase a large denomination CD (\$1,000,000.00) at the time the interest is paid by the other banking institution in two weeks. In the interim, the initial 450K investment could be placed in a short term CD.

In step 44, the system operator places an offer to buy a large denomination CD (LD-CD). These large denomination CDs are sometimes called bank investment contracts. In step 46, the system operator reviews the bids placed by the various banking institutions BI₁, BI₂ for the large denomination CD. These bids would include all terms associated with the CD including principal amount, number of years, interest due on the principal, and time for interest payments.

In step 50, the banking institution or another third party information provider inputs information relative to the con-

dition of the banking institution, that is, A, B, C, D, or E or other known classifications. The condition of the banking institution is directly related to the capital/debt ratio. Since large amounts of money are placed with a particular institution, the capital/debt ratio may play an important role in determining the ranking of the institutions and the top qualifying bids therefrom. In step 52, the various bids and, more importantly, the banking institutions are rated from high to low. The investment manager or the system operator may work with the system in order to rank the various bids. In step 54, a list of non-available banking institutions is compiled for all annuity beneficiary investors who will participate in the LD-CD investment. Table 4, the expanded annuity beneficiary record, shows non-available banks BI₁, BI₂, and BI₃ associated with annuity beneficiary AB₁.

In step 60, a comparison is made between the bid list, the beneficiaries designated to invest and the non-available banking institutions associated therewith. Step 62 is a decision step which determines whether any of the top five ranked banking institutions are classified as non-available for all annuity beneficiaries who will invest in the designated CDs offered by the top five institutions. Assuming that all top five institutions are not classified as non-available, that is they are available, step 64 involves selection of one of the top five bids. Step 66 commands the investment of the money into the selected banking institution and particularly the purchase of the large denomination, relatively long term CD.

In step 68, a compilation of customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data is prepared. Reports are generated and posted. For example, customers will want to know the total investments directed to a particular annuity contract, the value of the annuity contract account, the interest generated by that account, and may be concerned regarding the insurance protection offered under this system. Accordingly, a report showing the non-available banks for a particular annuity beneficiary may be prepared for each customer. In any event, the investment manager for the system should use a listing of non-available as well as available banking institutions in order to properly invest the funds. In step 70, the system pays money to beneficiaries under annuitized contracts or redeems contracts that have been canceled. These payments are posted and the appropriate notations are made in the customer records, annuity beneficiary records and investment matrices. Of course, certain institutions would be reclassified as available if beneficiary funds therein dropped below the insured level. Step 72 returns the program to its beginning, start step 10.

Returning to decision step 62, the YES branch goes from jump point A1 in FIG. 1A to jump point A1 in FIG. 1B. Step 80 shows the beneficiary ID, AB#, the investment amount for that beneficiary and the ranked but non-available banking institution. This is a result of the decision step 62 determining that one or more of the top five ranked banking institutions have been designated as non-available for one or more beneficiaries. Of course, rather than ranking five institutions in step 62, ten institutions could be ranked and analyzed in step 80. Five institutions are ranked herein as an example. Following step 80, decision step 82 determines whether the particular investment for a particular annuity beneficiary is less than a dollar threshold value (\$THRES). The YES branch from decision step 82 enters step 84. If the investment for a particular annuity beneficiary is small, for example the 2.4K investment in short term deposit ST₂ for annuity beneficiary AB_n in Table 3, 2.4K, the 2.4K investment is shifted to a short term CD in another bank BI_n. Alternatively, the small investment for the annuity benefi-

ciary can be placed on deposit with any institution that is classified as available. The funds need not be placed in a time deposit (i.e., CD) to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance. However, it would be prudent to use CDs rather than designate checking or savings accounts due to the higher return on investment. Step 86 removes the beneficiary's investment from the large denomination CD investment. This enables the system to use the top ranked institution for all beneficiaries except AB_n. Step 88 repeats steps 80, 82, 84, 86 for all annuity beneficiaries having designated funds and non-available classifications for the ranked banking institutions. This repetition is shown by the system returning to step 80.

If the NO branch from decision step 82 is taken, in step 90, the ranking of the banking institutions is changed. For example, if AB₂ having a deposit of 80K is larger than the money threshold used in step 82, (see Table 3), it is beneficial to change the ranking of the top five banking institutions such that the top ranked institution is placed at the bottom of the five stacked institutions. Decision step 92 determines whether all five banking institutions have been reviewed. If not, the NO branch is taken and in step 94, the next ranked banking institution is used and steps 80 and 82 are repeated. Of course, if the next ranked banking institution is not designated as non-available by any annuity beneficiaries, the program would jump to step 64, the select banking institution in FIG. 1A.

If the YES branch is taken from decision step 92, decision step 96 determines whether all top ten ranked banking institutions have been reviewed. If all ten top ranked institutions have been reviewed resulting in all ten institutions classified as non-available and having substantial beneficiary participation in the LD-CD, the YES branch is taken and step 98 shows the top ten ranked institutions, prompts the system operator to change the money threshold (\$THRES) in decision step 82, and repeats the process beginning at jump point A1 with the old ranking. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 96, that is, not all top ten institutions have been reviewed, step 100 uses the next group of five ranked institutions, that is institutions six through ten. The program returns to step 80 which shows whether institutions six through ten are designated as non-available by any annuity beneficiary. This process continues until a particular banking institution is selected and jump point B1 returns to select institution step 64 in FIG. 1A. Other automated selection routines could be used to select institutions.

The system may be modified such that interest paid by a particular banking institution based upon a first CD investment is automatically swept into a second CD investment at the same bank. In this modified system, two limits are set, a lower fund limit which designates a banking institution as an deposit capped institution, and an insured limit which ultimately is used to classify the banking institution as non-available. FIG. 2 diagrammatically shows this aspect of the system. In step 110, data is input into the system regarding the government established, depositor's insurance limit value. Step 112 establishes a lower fund limit which is less than the depositor's insurance limit value. In step 114, the interest and principal are accumulated in the same banking institution for all annuity beneficiaries (one of which is AB_n) having designated CDs in that particular institution. The interest is preferably swept into a CD. However, if the interest is swept into any type of deposit account at the institution, whether a time deposit or other account, the annuity beneficiary obtains the benefit of depositor's insurance. This feature of using other types of

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deposit accounts is encompassed by the present system and is sometimes referred to herein as a "deposit instrument" available at the bank. Decision 116 determines whether the total investment for each annuity beneficiary AB_c for that particular banking institution BI_p exceeds the lower fund limit. The NO branch from decision step 116 returns to step 114. accumulate principal and interest in the same BI_p . At this point, new investments can be posted to the bank BI_p for the beneficiary AB_c .

The YES branch from decision step 116 enters step 118 which classifies the particular banking institution BI_p as deposit capped for a particular annuity beneficiary AB_c . For example, the investment manager of the system should know that a large investment by a particular annuity beneficiary in a particular CD will generate a certain amount of interest over a certain period of time. For example, a \$50,000.00 investment in a large denomination, seven year CD may generate \$50,000.00 in interest over the total term of the CD. If a particular annuity beneficiary AB_c is designated as the beneficiary of a \$50,000.00 annuity and that sum was an initial investment in that CD, that banking institution would be classified as deposit capped (the lower fund limit set at \$50,000.00) for AB_c and all interest assigned to that annuity beneficiary AB_c would be swept into short term and possibly long term CDs with that particular banking institution BI_p . All CDs would mature on or before the seven year maturity date of the large denomination CD with the institution. In this instance, the lower fund limit would be set at \$50,000.00.

Step 120 follows step 118 and only interest is accumulated in the deposit capped banking institutions for the particular annuity beneficiary. In other words, no new principal investments would be made for that beneficiary AB_c in that particular banking institution BI_p . Only interest would accumulate in BI_p for AB_c . Decision step 122 follows step 120 and a determination is made whether the total investment per annuity beneficiary in each banking institution exceeds the insured limit. The insured limit is set at \$100,000.00. The NO branch returns to accumulate interest step 120. The YES branch leads to step 124 which classifies the particular banking institution as a non-available institution for the particular annuity beneficiary. Step 124 leads to jump step 126 GO BACK TO MAIN PROGRAM. The main program would be entered at any convenient point, possibly immediately before step 32.

Although the example provided herein regarding the large denomination CD involves rolling over the interest in a short term CD, it is most likely that under the terms of the LD-CD, the interest would be allowed to accumulate with the principal and such interest would be compounded with the principal. The interest rate on the accumulated fund would be the interest rate for the LD-CD.

The present invention can be used for monitoring annuity funds for any type of annuity. For example, some annuity contracts provide for an initial large payment, for example \$1,000,000.00, which would be deposited in at least ten institutions under the present system, and the annuity pays periodically, for example quarterly, \$30,000.00 to the annuity beneficiary. Mother type of annuity funds a retirement plan for the annuity beneficiary. When the annuity beneficiary reaches retirement age, at age 65, the annuity contract may be annuitized and a lump sum payment or other payment plan is made to the annuity beneficiary. The annuity beneficiary may decide to receive periodic payments for a number of years rather than a lump sum. This retirement annuity is called a deferred annuity. The deferred annuity has certain tax advantages such that interest accumulated on

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the principal is accumulated tax free. If the principal or interest are withdrawn from a deferred annuity before retirement age, there are adverse tax consequences associated with such withdrawal.

The order of the steps set forth above is only exemplary. For example, the pay annuity step 70 may precede the display money and time statistics step 30. The classification of banks, steps 32, 34 and 36 can precede step 60. These modifications fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The present system has been described as monitoring annuity funds deposited in federally approved banking institutions. However, the government regulations also provide insurance for funds deposited in such institutions in accordance with a life insurance program. As is known, a life insurance contract, funded by a customer, customarily provides that, upon death of a named individual, the life insurance company will pay one or more named life insurance beneficiaries. Whole life insurance contracts permit the customer or a named individual to withdraw money from the life insurance fund or borrow against the fund before the death of the named individual. The life insurance beneficiary, and the person entitled to withdraw or borrow against the life insurance fund (the policy owner) is called herein a "life insurance designee" or simply "beneficiary." The government regulations provide that funds deposited in a federally approved banking institution by a life insurance company under a life insurance contract for the benefit of a life insurance designee are insured by depositor's insurance up to the established government insurance limit. Accordingly, the present system described above with respect to FIGS. 1A, 1B and 2 can be easily adopted by a life insurance company to reap the benefits of depositor's insurance. Rather than monitoring annuity beneficiaries, the system monitors life insurance designees' institutions and life insurance designees' funds deposited in the approved and available banking institutions. The claims appended hereto are meant to cover this alternate embodiment of the present invention.

As stated earlier, in order to ensure that a qualified annuity fund (a fund of money specifically designated to be protected by depositor's insurance) qualifies for the depositor's insurance, the data processing system may continually monitor the qualified annuity fund data plus the unqualified annuity fund data plus the non-annuity fund data, may periodically monitor that investment data or may utilize transactional parameters which do not require immediate and timely electronic monitoring of unqualified and non-annuity fund data. In other words, the electronic processing of transactional data system may continually monitor the funds, may periodically monitor the funds or may monitor only the qualified annuity fund data without concern for the unqualified and non-annuity fund data. As used herein, the term "continually monitor" refers to a data processing and transactional system which monitors funds data daily or at least every 10 business days. Ten business days is selected for the continual monitoring system because interest will most likely be posted to the principal of the qualified annuity fund (a deposit account or CD) no sooner than every 10 business days. If interest is posted at different time periods, the continual monitor data processing system should be modified to take into account the shorter or longer posting cycle.

The periodic monitoring transactional data system acquires data from the customer, the annuity beneficiary (AB) and the various banking institutions (BI) or banks less often than the continual monitoring system. For example,

the periodic monitoring system may acquire or update unqualified annuity fund and non-annuity fund data (identified in FIGS. 3B-3D as "N+UNQ Fund Data" referring to non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data respectively) on a quarterly basis.

In contrast to the continual monitoring system and the periodic monitoring system, the transactional data system may avoid monitoring the unqualified annuity, fund data and non-annuity fund data by simply disqualifying or classifying those banks as non-available (N/A) banks. Alternatively, the nominal or non-monitor system may shift the burden to identify and quantify the non-annuity fund and unqualified annuity fund data and related bank data to the customer. In this low level system, the fund and bank data may be updated yearly by electronically entering data based upon information supplied by the customer/beneficiary from, for example, a written questionnaire.

FIG. 3A diagrammatically illustrates the major components of a system which can be utilized to continually, periodically or nominally monitor the funds and investments. In all instances it is necessary to monitor the qualified annuity fund data which includes the principal held in the qualified or insured annuity fund as well as the earnings or interest created by that principal on deposit with a particular bank BI_n . The computer hardware and telecommunication system described and illustrated in FIG. 3A is only exemplary. The system illustrated in FIG. 3A includes five major elements which can be reconfigured dependent upon the complexity or simplicity of the transactional data and monitoring system. Element 210 generally illustrates the computer components located at the life insurance company or other company administering the financial fund system and data. As stated earlier, only life insurance companies can issue annuities or life insurance policies. If other legal entities can issue annuities and life insurance policies or administer the resulting funds and be permitted under the current bank regulations to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance for their customers at approved bank institutions, the term "life insurance company" is meant to cover those entities.

At company location 210, a computer system 220 is utilized. Computer system 220 is electronically connected to a large data storage device 222, a monitor 224, a keyboard 226 and a printing device 228. A printed out report 230 has been developed by printing device 228. The company having computer system 210 monitors the annuity fund through a telecommunications network 240. The telecommunications network 240 links sources of electronic investment information such as the New York Stock Exchange electronic bulletin board 242 which shows not only the value of various equity and debt investments but also the net asset value (NAV) of various mutual funds. Telecommunications network 240 is also electronically connected to various banks or banking institutions, and particularly one bank BI_1 , which includes computer system 244. Telecommunications network 240 is also connected to banking institutions BI_2 and BI_n as shown in FIG. 3A. It is known in the industry that banks BI_2 and BI_n include data processing computer systems similar to that shown as computer system 244 for BI_1 . Computer system 244 includes a central computing unit 246 connected to telecommunications network 240 via an input/output (I/O) device. Computer unit 246 is also electronically connected to a large data storage unit 248, a printing device 250 and a plurality of work stations, two of which are work stations 252 and 254. Each work station includes a monitor and a keyboard. Printing device 250 has developed a printed report or bank statement 256.

Telecommunications network 240 is also connected to a number of customers. Customer-Annuity beneficiary CUST-AB₁ has a personal computer 260. Customer-AB₂ and Customer-AB_n are also connected to telecommunications network 240. The personal computer system 260 for customer-AB₁ may electronically acquire information regarding unqualified annuity funds and non-annuity funds owned by Customer-AB from banks BI_1, BI_2, \dots, BI_n or the customer may input this information from his or her bank statement 262 via keyboard 264 into computer unit 266. Of course, personal computer system 260 includes a monitor 268. As a further enhancement of the present system, life insurance company 210 or the company monitoring the transactional data for the qualified annuity fund may download or permit electronic access by Customer-AB₁ into an approved electronic file rather than sending the customer-annuity beneficiary a printed out report.

The claims appended hereto are meant to cover these modifications of the present invention.

In FIG. 3A, reference is made to a customer-annuity beneficiary because, as explained later, the customer initially establishes the account for the benefit of one or more annuity beneficiaries. The customer may be the annuity beneficiary identified in the contract. Further, the customer may identify himself or herself as part of a group which together is legally considered to be a single annuity beneficiary.

The following annuity beneficiary list provides a short list of annuity beneficiaries that are linked by a family relationship to a particular customer. Each one of these individuals or legally recognized groups of individuals constitutes a single annuity beneficiary under the current regulations covering the depositor's insurance program. Persons having knowledge of the depositor's insurance program can identify up to fourteen different annuity beneficiaries having family relationships with a particular customer. The following annuity beneficiary list is simply a short list and is illustrated herein as an example. The present invention is meant to cover these and other legally recognized annuity beneficiaries.

Annuity Beneficiary List

AB₁ = customer individually
AB₂ = customer and spouse jointly
AB₃ = spouse individually
AB₄ = customer for the benefit of child A

This annuity beneficiary list provides an example of a subset of annuity beneficiary data which can be approved by a customer when establishing or entering the system in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

The present transactional data system can be utilized in conjunction with a single, federally approved banking institution or bank as well in conjunction with as multiple banks. The following single bank routine table illustrates the general aspects of the present invention utilized in conjunction with a single bank.

Single Bank Routine Table

id AB
issue annuity or life insurance contract (K)
invest principle (\$P) in special account (acct) for AB
(right, title and interest)
monitor all AB acct. balances

Single Bank Routine Table

determine if total exceeds predetermined fund threshold
 if excess, do something with overage with respect to \$P and
 earned interest in special AB acct
 change AB status on account (to a different right,
 title and interest).
 open a new AB acct and move excess to
 new AB acct.
 transfer excess funds to another bank.

Relating the single bank routine table to FIGS. 1A and 1B, steps 12 and 13 are encompassed in the first element of the single bank table which is identification of the annuity beneficiary (AB). The company issuing the contract, be it an annuity contract or a life insurance contract, then issues the contract to the customer and particularly for the benefit for the annuity beneficiary. The transactional data and processing system in accordance with the present invention then invests the principal of that contract into a special account for the benefit of the annuity beneficiary. The regulatory agency controlling the depositor's insurance program identifies an annuity beneficiary, as having a certain right, title and interest in and to the account. See the annuity beneficiary list above. Similar to steps 24 and 26 in FIG. 1A, the single bank routine table monitors the annuity fund data for all annuity beneficiary accounts. In a similar manner to step 32, the single bank routine determines whether the total exceeds a pre-determined fund threshold. If the total exceeds that pre-determined fund threshold, the transactional data processing system must do something with respect to the excess or overage. The choices are: (a) change the annuity beneficiary to a different annuity beneficiary, that is, one of the pre-approved annuity beneficiaries from the subset of approved annuity beneficiaries shown in above in the annuity beneficiary list; (b) open a new annuity beneficiary account with one AB from the pre-approved subset of annuity beneficiaries and move the excess funds to that new AB account; or, (c) transfer the excess qualified annuity funds to another banking institution. This transfer is encompassed by steps 64 and 66 in FIG. 1A.

FIGS. 3B, 3C and 3D diagrammatically illustrate data flow charts showing continual, periodic and nominal monitoring of qualified annuity or life insurance funds. With respect to FIG. 3B, the non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data (N+UNQ fund data) is acquired and summed at summation point 301 with qualified fund data (Q fund data). As discussed earlier, a "qualified" annuity or life insurance policy fund is one which is subject to the depositor's insurance described herein. After this fund data (Q+N+UNQ) is summed at summation point 301, the information is fed into a decision unit 303 which determines whether the combined fund data exceeds the depositor's insurance limits. If it does not, the data flow process repeats thereby acquiring non-annuity fund and unqualified annuity fund data and qualified annuity fund, summing the data and continually monitoring whether the total sum exceeds the insurance limit. If the insurance limit is exceeded, the YES branch is taken from decision unit 303 and either (a) new bank BI is utilized and excess qualified annuity funds (earnings or interest) are invested in the new bank (this system is disclosed in FIGS. 1A and 1B) or (b) the transactional data and monitoring system opens a new annuity beneficiary account for a different annuity beneficiary from the pre-approved subset and puts the excess funds in that new AB account. If the customer approves a subset of annuity beneficiaries such as the subset listed in the annuity

beneficiary list above, the system could simply electronically transfer the access funds into that new AB account. As used herein, reference to "opening a new AB account" encompasses the concept that a new account was initially opened by the customer with nominal sums (\$1.00) when he or she established the annuity fund. For example, a nominal deposit amount may have been established in a particular banking institution for AB₁, AB₂, AB₃ and AB₄. When the AB₁ exceeds the insured limit, excess qualified annuity funds (earnings) could be deposited into AB₂ account automatically. Accordingly, the system diagrammatically illustrated in FIG. 3B can operate on a single bank or can operate in conjunction with multiple banks and generally describes a continual monitoring and transactional data system. The data acquisition regarding fund data could be acquired daily or every other week.

FIG. 3C illustrates another type of data acquisition system encompassed by the present invention. Non-annuity fund data and unqualified annuity fund data is feed into a threshold filter 305. This threshold filter is generally similar to the pre-determined threshold discussed earlier. In other words, unless the non-annuity fund data and unqualified annuity fund data exceeds the dollar amount threshold established for threshold filter 305, that data does not pass through to summation point 307. If the non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data does exceed the threshold established in filter 305, this information is passed on either as a direct value or as some representation of that value into summation point 307. Qualified fund data is applied to summation point 307. For example, a representative value of the N and UNQ data can be applied to summation point 307 representing, in one alternative embodiment, one of a tiered level. For example, threshold filter 305 may identify tiers of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000. If the non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data is less than a \$1,000, the output of threshold filter 305 would be 0 into summation point 307. If that non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data is less than \$5,000 but more than \$1,000, the filter 305 would generate a \$5,000 representation into summation point 307. If the qualified fund data plus the \$5,000 data representation at summation point 307 exceeds, in accordance with decision step 309, the insurance limit, the YES branch would be taken and either the excess funds from the qualified annuity fund would be placed in a new banking institution or the excess funds would be placed into a new AB account which would be a subset of approved AB accounts. Of course, rather than passing just a representation of the value of non-annuity and unqualified annuity data through threshold filter 305, the actual value of that non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data over the threshold could be passed through summation point 307. In that instance, the insurance limit would be reduced by the threshold established in threshold filter 305. This is sometimes referred to herein as a "pre-determined fund limit." Accordingly, if the sum generated by summation point 307 exceeds this reduced pre-determined fund limit, the YES branch would be taken. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 309, the system simply repeats the periodic monitoring function. The system described above in conjunction with FIG. 3C could be utilized to periodically monitor the value of the AB₁ accounts in certain banking institutions or in a single banking institution. Periodic monitoring may be acceptable in that the customer/annuity beneficiary need not confirm the precise value of non-annuity and unqualified annuity funds in each particular banking institutions at each data acquisition cycle. The customer/AB could simply identify a particular threshold at each banking

institution for each AB account which does not exceed one of a number of deposit thresholds which are equivalent to the tiers in filter 305. This is discussed later in conjunction with the deposit threshold table.

FIG. 3D diagrammatically illustrates a data flow chart for a nominal monitoring system for non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data. In this data processing system, banking institution or bank data and non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data is fed into a bank filter 311 which simply identifies whether the bank is available or non-available based upon the presence or absence of funds in excess of a pre-determined threshold or level. These are non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds in a particular bank. In contrast thereto, qualified annuity fund data is applied in a substantially continual manner to an exceed limit decision step 313. If the qualified annuity fund, principal plus all interest earnings, does not exceed the limit, the NO branch is taken and the system continues to accept data as necessary. Particularly, the qualified annuity fund data must always be monitored in order to ascertain whether the principal plus accumulated interest or earnings at a particular banking institution exceeds the pre-determined fund limit. If the qualified fund data exceeds the limit, the YES branch is taken and, in one embodiment, these excess funds are invested in a new banking institution BI which has been filtered in accordance with bank filter 311. In other words, only available or "A" classified banking institutions would be utilized to hold or retain these excess qualified annuity funds. Alternatively, if the YES branch is taken, the excess funds could be deposited in a new annuity beneficiary account which is a subset of the approved AB accounts established by the customer when he or she established or entered the system.

FIG. 4 diagrammatically illustrates an expanded or approved list annuity beneficiary module. In set 410, the transactional data and fund monitoring system obtains a list of approved annuity beneficiaries along with the customer and AB data for each annuity beneficiary. The approved list of annuity beneficiaries may be similar to the annuity beneficiary list set forth above. In step 412, the system obtains banking institution and account data for all annuity beneficiaries listed in the approved list. In step 414, the system sums all account balances for all annuity beneficiaries on a per annuity and per bank basis. Particularly, step 414 ascertains earnings and principal held by a particular bank for the benefit of a particular annuity beneficiary.

Decision step 416 determines whether the sum obtained in step 414 exceeds a certain insured limit. Data acquisition step 414 may also acquire data relating to unqualified annuity funds as well as non-annuity fund data.

If the sum exceeds the insured limit or a pre-determined fund limit, the YES branch is taken and decision step 418 determines whether a single bank system is being utilized. If the YES branch is taken from step 418, step 420 opens a new annuity beneficiary account from the approved list of annuity beneficiaries. Step 422 transfers funds from the identified over limit annuity beneficiary account into the new annuity beneficiary account. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 418, that is, the system is not working in conjunction with a single bank, step 424 weighs the fund manager preference. For example, the fund manager may have determined at an earlier time, that he or she wants all funds invested in a certain banking institution unless a second banking institution has a better rate of return, has a higher bank rating or whatever. Unit 424 permits the system to be customized in this manner. Decision step 426 determines whether the funds should be held in a single bank. If the YES

branch is taken, the system returns to a point immediately preceding step 420. If the NO branch is taken from decision step 426, step 428 ranks the banking institutions available, selects a new institution and invests the excess annuity funds into that account. The output from step 428 merges with the NO branch from decision step 416.

The NO branch from decision step 416 is followed if the annuity funds plus all other funds accumulated in data acquisition step 414 exceed the pre-determined fund limit. In such a situation, the program or module executes step 430 which posts payments such as earnings etc. to a particular account and issues instructions to pay certain annuity beneficiaries if a particular type of annuity contract has been established. As stated earlier, some annuity contracts pay the annuity beneficiary a monthly sum of money. Other annuity contracts simply accumulate money and release that money or a portion thereof upon a certain occurrence, such as when an annuity beneficiary or another person reaches a certain age i.e. 65 years of age.

In step 432, the system compiles customer reports which disclose, for example, the following: funded annuity beneficiary contracts; a list of approved annuity beneficiaries identified by the customer; the date these accounts were established; and a list of the banking institutions either affected or influenced by the present system. Step 434 returns to the start of the program.

As stated earlier with respect to the various parts of FIG. 3, it may be beneficial, rather than to continually monitor the sum of all annuity beneficiary accounts (qualified, unqualified and non-annuity accounts), that the system simply identify, in conjunction with the customer/annuity beneficiary whether the annuity beneficiary has funds in a certain bank above a certain threshold. The deposit threshold table which follows identifies an example of such a system.

Deposit Threshold Table	
For Each Bank	
Tier 1:	less than \$5,000 in an identified AB acct
Tier 2:	\$5,000-10,000 in an AB acct
Tier 3:	over \$10,000 in an AB acct

In the deposit threshold table, the thresholds have been established as below \$5,000, between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and above \$10,000. When the annuity fund is initially established, the customer may simply be required to identify all banking institutions at each tier. Banks below tier 1 may be identified but those banks may not be affected by the present system. In other words, the data processing system can be established such that rather than monitor the value of all AB funds continually, only funds in excess of a certain threshold and the related banks would be monitored. Banks at tier 1 are not monitored because the qualified annuity funds in these banks will not exceed \$95,000.

The monitorization can be shifted to the customer such that the customer would be required to identify whether a bank has more than \$5,000 or between \$5,000 and \$10,000 or over \$10,000. Banks holding in excess of \$10,000 for particular annuity beneficiary may be classified as non-available. Otherwise, those banks may be identified as having a lower pre-determined fund threshold. For example, if a \$10,000 threshold or tier 3 bank were identified, the pre-determined fund limit may be set at \$90,000 in that bank wherein the actual depositor's insurance limit is \$100,000. In that case, the system could monitor different fund limits for different banks for different annuity, beneficiaries. The

deposit threshold can be utilized such that the customers and annuity beneficiaries can be requested to update this information on what tier each bank falls within quarterly or yearly basis. Accordingly, this system periodically monitors N and UNQ funds. In an electronic monitoring system, the customer-AB may give the system operator authority to access bank account data to monitor the N and UNQ funds.

The account data table which follows provides an example of such periodic monitoring. Also, the account data table may be part of the printed out report delivered to the customer and annuity beneficiary periodically along with information regarding the value of the annuity fund.

Account Data Table	
Approved AB's	
primary	customer individually is AB ₁
secondary	customer and spouse jointly is AB ₂
tertiary	customer's spouse is AB ₃
List Banks Holding Funds	
customers individual (AB ₁)	
list banks	
id deposit threshold tier	
less than \$10K	
\$10K to \$15K	
\$15K to \$20K	
over \$20K	
customer and spouse joint account (AB ₂)	
list banks	
id deposit threshold tier	
customer's spouse individually (AB ₃)	
list banks	
id deposit threshold tier	

In the account data table, the customer or annuity beneficiary must identify primary, secondary and tertiary annuity beneficiaries. These are identified in the exemplary table as AB₁, AB₂ and AB₃ which are, respectively, the individual customer, the customer and his or her spouse jointly and the customer's spouse. The regulations governing the depositor's insurance recognize that AB₁, AB₂ and AB₃ are different annuity beneficiaries since each entity has a different right, title and interest in and to the annuity fund established therefor. This is a subset of approved ABs for the customer-AB. The account data table continues by requesting or showing information from the customer/annuity beneficiary and identifying each bank holding funds on behalf of the particular annuity beneficiary. Accordingly, the individual customer AB₁ must identify all banks and the deposit threshold tier for each bank. Does the bank hold less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$15,000, between \$15,000 and \$20,000 or over \$20,000? It should be appreciated that appropriate deposit thresholds may be selected for the particular system established for a singular bank, multiple banks or banks within a certain family of companies. The account data table may continue to list each annuity beneficiary of the subset of approved annuity beneficiaries and require that the customer/annuity beneficiary identify the tier associated with a particular bank.

FIG. 5 diagrammatically illustrates a front end or deposit threshold module utilizing the deposit threshold tiers discussed above. In step 710, the system establishes a deposit threshold for each tier. This threshold may be different for particular banks, particular families of banks (within the same or related company) or otherwise. Step 712 obtains data relative to the approved subset of annuity beneficiaries (see the annuity beneficiary list) as well as banking institution data and tier data for each annuity beneficiary. Step 714

monitors the value of each annuity beneficiary contract (K) in each bank (BI). Step 716 provides reports when the sum of a particular annuity beneficiary contract (AB K) plus the deposit threshold identified with a particular bank (the tier) exceeds the insured limit. Step 718 is a fund manager selection module which is preset by the fund manager dependent on certain parameters established for data transactional system herein. The fund manager may determine to shift all excess monies to a new annuity beneficiary contract in the same banking institution which is represented by step 120. Alternatively, in addition to, or as a subset thereof, the manager or system may shift the entire amount of the excessive annuity beneficiary account to another annuity beneficiary from the approved list wherein that other annuity beneficiary has identified that particular banking institution at a lower tier. This is noted in step 722. For example, for a single bank system, assume that the first annuity beneficiary AB₁ is the customer individually. Assume also that the individual customer selected a particular bank at the \$15,000 level tier. The customer also approved a second annuity beneficiary AB₂ as the customer and his or her spouse, jointly. However, for the same bank, AB₂ identifies that bank at a tier less than \$10,000. When the first annuity beneficiary contract, the AB₁-K exceeds the \$80,000 (assuming \$100,000 deposit insurance), the fund manager may determine that it is more prudent to shift the entire \$80,000 annuity fund into the AB₂ account thereby providing an additional \$10,000 to be accumulated in that particular bank under an AB₂ account. Since the customer has already pre-approved the entire list of annuity beneficiaries, it should not matter to him or her where the money is held as long as all the funds are federally insured under the depositor's insurance.

Other selections available to the fund manager which would be executed automatically by the program, depending upon which module is designated as primary, secondary or otherwise, are found in step 724 which transfers the entire amount of the annuity contract or just the excess amount (over the insured limit or the pre-determined fund limit) to a new banking institution. Step 726 provides that the system would automatically generate a report to the customer/annuity beneficiary requesting an update for the tier level for a particular banking institution or group of banking institutions. In other words, the system can be automated such that it requests additional information from the customer/annuity beneficiary when a particular annuity fund exceeds a certain value. In other words, the periodic monitoring system can request information when the annuity fund level exceeds a certain value rather than on a purely periodic basis, i.e., quarterly.

FIGS. 6, 7A and 7B diagrammatically illustrate the flow of funds as well as the flow of data or information relative to the funds. Since a number of abbreviations are used in these figures, the following abbreviations table may be helpful.

Abbreviations Table for FIGS. 6 and 7	
AB	Annuity beneficiary
K	Contract
e _r , e _m , e _o	earnings from real estate (R.E.), mutual funds (m) and other investments (o), respectively
AB ₁	income to an AB
e _{r-g} , e _{r-i}	earnings from realized gains in real estate (r-g) and income earnings from real estate (r-i)
e _{m-g} , e _{m-i}	earnings from realized gains in mutual funds (m-g) and income from mutual funds (m-i)
e _{o-g} , e _{o-i}	earnings from realized gains in other investments

Abbreviations Table for FIGS. 6 and 7

Δe_i	(o-g) and income from other investments (o-i) the difference between earnings from all investments (real estate, mutual funds, others) and the income AB_i paid to AB_i .
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With respect to FIG. 6, the customer places money with a life insurance company and the life insurance company establishes an internal account for the customer. The life insurance company then accumulates various funds from individual accounts as AB_1 , AB_2 , AB_3 and AB_4 and purchases a certificate of deposit or deposit instrument (collectively herein a "CD") from the bank. In return for the customer establishing these annuity contracts with the life insurance company, the life insurance company may give the customer a variable annuity contract K_1-AB_1 . The insurance company may obtain a loan from the bank based upon the CD and may invest this money into real estate, mutual funds or other investments (debt, equity and etc.). These investments involve the transfer of money to the seller of the investment and these secondary investments generate certain earnings "e". These earnings are generally identified as monthly earnings such as interest, dividends or rents. The investments are secondary because the "primary" investment is held by the bank.

Alternatively, the customer-AB could directly deposit the money in the bank and obtain a loan (collateralized by the CD). The loan proceeds would then be given to the life insurance company for the secondary investments (real estate, mutual funds, etc.). The customer-AB, the bank and the life insurance company may sign an agreement whereby the bank looks to the secondary investment as substitute collateral for the loan. If the value of the secondary investment-substitute collateral is not sufficient to cover the loan, the bank would prohibit a full withdrawal of funds from the secondary investments by customer-AB. If the secondary investments fully cover the loan, upon full withdrawal from the system by the customer, the bank and the life insurance company close out the loan, liquidate the CD (the primary investment) and the secondary investment and pay the customer-AB the difference between the total and the loan pay-off amount.

FIG. 7A shows a more complex system where the life insurance company receives not only earned income earnings from the various investments such as income earnings e_{r-i} from real estate and e_{m-i} income earnings from mutual funds and from other investments but also realized gains from cashing out of secondary investments. The realized gains from real estate occur when the real estate is sold and when the value or the amount of the sale exceeds the basis or cost of the investment. This results in a realized gain. These realized gains from the sales of investments are shown in FIG. 7A. E_{r-g} represents earnings as realized gains from real estate. E_{m-g} represents the realized gains from the sale of mutual fund shares etc. These realized gains are sent from the insurance company back to the bank for another CD (CD_2). Also, the difference between the monthly income earnings (dividends, rents and interest) less the monthly payouts to each annuity beneficiary (AB_{i1} , AB_{i2}) are re-invested in the bank. The realized gains and earnings differential are invested into CD_2 . This enables the annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance on realized gains and earnings which are accumulated in the bank. These realized gains and earnings are part of the annuity fund data monitored in step 26 in FIG. 1A, the

monitor sum step 714 in FIG. 5, the sum account balances step 414 in FIG. 4, and the qualified fund data acquisition in FIGS. 3B, 3C and 3D. The realization, conversion and investment in an approved banking institution provides depositor's insurance for those realized gains and earnings for each annuity beneficiary contract.

FIG. 7B diagrammatically illustrates another data flow and transactional system. The system shown in FIG. 7B, the customer/annuity beneficiary places his or her initial investment in a certificate of deposit or depository instrument CD_1 in a bank. The bank then loans the money back to the customer/annuity beneficiary. This enables the annuity beneficiary to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance on CD_1 . The loan money from the customer/annuity beneficiary is given to the life insurance company which invest in various secondary investments as discussed above. For example, the life insurance company may invest in mutual funds, real estate, debt, equity and etc. The returns or earnings from those various secondary investments are channeled through the life insurance company and ultimately placed in CD_2 whereby the realized earnings and gains are subject to the depositor's insurance. The insurance company may also make monthly payments to the annuity beneficiaries designated in the corresponding contracts. In such cases, the differential between the realized gains and earnings and the monthly payments are deposited in deposit instrument CD_2 at the bank. The insurance company, the bank and the customer-AB may have an agreed upon arrangement such that the customer-AB may use his or her designated portion of CD_2 as collateral for another loan. The proceeds of this loan would be channeled through the insurance company and ultimately into further secondary investments. This deposit-loan-reinvestment plan may be "seamless" to the customer-AB in that the bank and the insurance company may have a master agreement relating to the initial direct deposit of the funds into the bank by the customer-AB, the initial loan and the subsequent transfer, conversion and loan on realized gains and earnings.

With respect to redemptions of the contracts by customer/AB, it may be possible to first liquidate the secondary investments to pay off the bank loan thereby minimizing the degree of insurance on the primary investment. In this case, the secondary investment may be substitute collateral for the loan.

FIG. 7B would require transactional data monitoring and processing since the life insurance company must track the amount and principal accumulation of CD_1 in the bank. In other words, the customer/annuity beneficiary must give permission to the life insurance to acquire data, preferably electronically from the bank regarding the amount of CD_1 . The life insurance company would also monitor the amount or CD_2 which represents the realized gains and earnings differential. The company would also monitor non-annuity and unqualified annuity funds in some manner as described above. The life insurance company would periodically issue reports to the customer/annuity beneficiary regarding the value of his or her annuity funds.

For any particular annuity contract, the customer/annuity beneficiary may wish to diversify his or her portfolio. In other words, the customer/annuity beneficiary may wish to have part of his or her annuity contract protected by depositor's insurance and have other parts not so protected. Further, the system described above with respect to the loans using the initial annuity contract as collateral results an annuity contract whereby although the principal amount is subject to depositor's insurance, the annuity beneficiary is subject to market forces in that the loan proceeds in the

secondary investments could be rendered worthless (or more optimistically generate a significantly higher return on investment than the return on a CD or deposit investment). Although the principal of the annuity contract may be fully protected by the depositor's insurance, other parties of the annuity contract may be subject to market forces. For example, assume that the annuity beneficiary obtained a loan from the bank using the CD investment of the annuity contract as collateral. Assume further that the annuity beneficiary invested the loan proceeds in mutual funds. The value of the annuity contract would depend upon the market value or net asset value (NAV) of the mutual funds. If the mutual funds increase in value, the total value of the annuity contract would also increase. Similarly, if the value of the mutual funds fell, the value of the total annuity contract would fall. The annuity beneficiary is protected against (a) failure of the bank since the government would pay the value of the CD in the event of such failure and (b) the failure of the life insurance company since the CD is, on a legal basis, owned by the annuity beneficiary. In other words, the life insurance company does not have any right to retain the value of that deposited money. However, the customer-AB's investment in the mutual funds is subject to market forces.

In the event the annuity beneficiary, wanted to diversify or shift part of his or her annuity contract into a higher risk category (thereby enhancing the potential for higher gains), the following customer report may be useful.

Customer Report

Customer data

Annuity 1

type: Variable
 risk level = w %
 beneficiary: AB₁ (customer individually)
 monthly income i₁ = \$Q1, \$Q2, \$Q3, \$Q4
 Initial Investment = \$P₁
 Current value V. Ann. 1 = \$V₁
 Rate of return V. Ann. 1 = r₁
 Absolutely insured amount (AIA) \$ _____
 Potentially insured amount (PIA) \$ _____
 Note: Insurance protects against the failure of the bank holding the CD-principal or the Life Insurance Company.
 Affected Banks: BI₁
 Beneficiary Banks: BI₁, BI₂
 Identify tiers for banks: _____
 Annuity 2

type: Variable
 beneficiary: AB₂ (customer and spouse jointly)
 repeat data above with i₂, \$P₂, \$V₂, r₂, AIA and PIA, etc.

Annuity 3

type: fixed
 beneficiary: AB₃ (customer and child A jointly)
 monthly income i₃ fixed at \$Qf
 initial investment = \$P₃
 AIA = \$P₃ if i₃ equals CD earnings
 [Optionally: list AIA and PIA if i₃ is greater than return on CD]

In the customer report, each annuity has an assigned risk level selected initially by the customer-AB. If the risk level "w" is 100%, all of the annuity fund is subject to market forces. In annuity 1, the beneficiary is AB₁ which is the customer individually. The customer receives monthly income i₁ on a quarterly basis equal to \$Q1, \$Q2, \$Q3 and \$Q4. The initial investment was \$P₁. The current value of the variable annuity is \$V₁. The current value V_c may be calculated as shown in equation A which follows.

Eq. A

$$V_c = (P(1 - \% \text{ risk}) \text{ plus interest on CD earnings therefrom}) \\ \text{plus} \\ (P(\% \text{ risk}) \text{ plus (value non-CD investments less } P \\ (\% \text{ risk}))) \\ \text{plus} \\ (\text{realized earnings from non-CD investments})$$

In equation A, the total current value of V_c may be computed as follows: The initial principal P is multiplied by the difference 1 minus the percentage risk value w. If the customer accepts 100% market risk, the difference is zero (1-1) and therefore this portion of the V_c formula is zero. On the other hand, if the risk value w is zero, the total principal P is protected. The earnings from that protected or risk free investment is added to the fully insured principal.

The next portion of the V_c formula quantifies the value of the annuity contract which is subject to market forces. The principal multiplied by the risk factor represents the initial investment which is subject to the market risk w. This value is added to the net, unrealized gain of the non-CD investments. In other words, the net unrealized gain is the value of the non-CD investments or secondary investments less the initial market risk investment. This portion of the V_c formula is added to realized earnings whether realized gains or realized incomes from non-CD or secondary investments.

The customer report then shows the rate of return for the variable annuity one which is r₁. The customer report may also provide an indication regarding the amount of absolutely insured investments "AIA." Equation B which follows shows the value of AIA.

Eq. B

absolutely insured amount = (P(1-% risk) plus interest on CD earnings therefrom)

In equation B, the absolutely insured amount is the non-risk principal P multiplied by 1 minus %risk plus the earnings from that non-risk investment.

The customer report may also indicate the potentially insured amount or "PIA." Equation C which follows shows the potentially insured amount.

Eq. C

$$\text{Potentially insured amount} = (\text{AIA}) \\ \text{plus} \\ P(\% \text{ risk}) \text{ plus (value non-CD investments less } P(\% \text{ risk})) \\ \text{plus} \\ (\text{realized and converted earnings from non-CD investments})$$

The potentially insured amount PIA is the absolutely insured amount AIA plus the initial investment at market risk plus the unrealized gain from the non-CD investment plus the realized and converted earnings (realized gains and monthly or periodic income earnings) from the non-CD investments. The potentially insured amount is the amount insured if the bank and/or the life insurance company fails.

The customer report may also provide a note that the insurance protects only certain aspects of the annuity beneficiaries contract. Also, the customer report may identify affected banks and banks currently utilized by the beneficiary. The affected banks are banks holding qualified annuity funds for the system. Beneficiary banks are banks holding non-annuity and unqualified annuity funds for benefit of the

annuity beneficiary. Tier identification for each AB bank may also be included in the report. The customer report would also preferably show other annuity contracts such as annuity 2 and annuity 3 as set forth above.

FIG. 8 diagrammatically illustrates a diversified or an enhanced return system module. In step 810, the system obtains customer data, annuity beneficiary data, banking institution data and the risk level data acceptable to the customer/annuity beneficiary for the particular annuity contract. In step 812, the system invests the principle \$P in a CD in a bank. In step 814, the system monitors the sum of the non-risk principal $P(1-\%risk)$ plus the earnings (interest) at the particular bank. In step 816, the system transfers excess amounts of the qualified annuity funds over the predetermined fund threshold into a new annuity beneficiary account or into a new banking institution as is necessary or as described earlier. Step 818 invests the risk money \$P (%risk) in supplemental or secondary investment such as real estate, mutual funds etc. In steps 818 and 819, the system transfers realized gains and income from the supplemental investment to the annuity beneficiary account at the particular bank institution. Step 820 repeats "monitor" step 814 and "transfer excess step" 816. Step 822 computes the absolutely insured amount AIA and the potentially insured amount PIA and the current value V_c of the annuity beneficiary contract AB-K. Step 824 provides a report to the customer which may include the data from the customer report set forth above.

It may be desirable to establish a system utilizing a pool of annuity contracts. Further, a pooled system may be so complex or that, so large at any given moment, the system operator could not absolutely guarantee that all funds associated with the system are covered by depositor's insurance. In order to ascertain and track the uninsured portions, the following exposure tables, Exposure Tables 1 and 2, establish exemplary system parameters. These parameters may be incorporated into a data transactional system to monitor the deposit insurance coverage for a multiplicity of annuity or life insurance contracts.

Exposure Table 1

Pool limit is 100 ABs per BI		
\$50K (\$50,000) initial investment (fixed) per contract		
1K dep thres: AB limit none		Tier 1
5K dep thres: AB limit is 20 ABs		Tier 2
10K dep thres: AB limit is 10 ABs		Tier 3
LD-CD or BIC equals \$5M (\$5,000,000)		
government insured value = \$100K		
pred. fund limit = \$95K		
reserved funds calculation (maximum)		
1st determine covered funds		
1K AB dep thres		
5K AB dep thres		
Tier 1 and 2 ABs are fully covered		
2nd determine exposure for uncovered funds		
10K less (100K less pred. fund limit)		
exposure 5K per uncovered AB		
total exposure 5K multiplied by number of uncovered ABs - (\$5K times 10 max'm ABs) = \$50K		
total expose		
Secure insurance for \$50K if bank failure or reserve funds		

Exposure Table 2

Pool limit is 100 ABs per BI		
\$50K-\$90K initial investment per contract		
10K dep thres: AB limit none		Tier 1
10K-15K dep thres: AB limit 20		Tier 2
15K-20K dep thres: AB limit 10		Tier 3
BIC equals \$5M to \$9M		
government insured value is \$100K		
pred. fund limit = \$90K		
reserved funds calculation:		
minimum		
Tier 1 ABs are fully covered by insurance		
maximum exposure		
2nd Tier: \$5K exposure per AB at Tier 2		
20 ABs maximum at Tier 2		
\$5K multiplied by 20 = \$1M exposure		
3rd Tier: \$20K exposure per AB at Tier 3		
10 ABs maximum at Tier 3		
\$20K times 10 = \$200K exposure		
total maximum exposure is \$1.2M		

In each one of these exposure tables, the total number of annuity beneficiaries is limited to a certain pool limit. In Exposure Table 1, the initially investment is fixed at \$50,000 per annuity contract. Only 100 annuity beneficiaries may participate in this bank pool. On the other hand, deposit thresholds have been established and the number annuity beneficiaries are limited at tiers 2 and 3. The calculations set forth in Exposure Table 1 provide that the maximum degree of exposure for uninsured funds is \$50,000 or \$50K. With respect to Exposure Table 2, the pool limit is 100 annuity beneficiaries but the initial investment for each AB contract may vary from \$50,000 to \$90,000. The maximum uninsured exposure is \$1,200,000 (\$1.2M) as calculated in Exposure Table 2. The exposure level at each tier is established by subtracting, from the deposit threshold, the depositor's insurance limit less the pre-determined fund limit. The pre-determined fund limit is explained earlier. If the deposit threshold is less than or equal to the pre-determined fund limit, there is no exposure. However, for a deposit threshold greater than the predetermined fund limit, the exposure for the system is based upon the number of annuity, beneficiaries at that tier multiplied by the amount of exposed investment for each annuity beneficiary. When these tiered values and exposure levels are summed, the maximum exposure can be calculated for the system.

As explained earlier, the system can operate substantially similar with life insurance contracts and life insurance beneficiaries. The claims appended hereto are meant to cover a system operating in conjunction with life insurance funds.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuity or life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically inputting and storing annuity or life insurance contract fund data, associated customer data, contract beneficiary data;

electronically inputting and storing non-annuity contract, unqualified annuity contract and non-life insurance contract fund data representing non-contract funds, above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each beneficiary;

electronically determining whether the sum of all contract funds, identified with a single beneficiary and designated for one banking

institution of said plurality of banking institutions, plus all non-contract funds held by said one banking institution for said single beneficiary and represented by corresponding data, exceeds said predetermined fund limit; electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess contract funds identified with said single beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to another one of said plurality of banking institutions; and,

electronically determining the excess contract funds, inputting and storing non-contract fund and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess contract funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold contract funds for all beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for contract funds.

2. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of electronically inputting and storing non-contract fund data above said predetermined threshold includes the step of providing a predetermined fund threshold which is greater than or equal to zero and the method includes the step of electronically substituting said predetermined threshold for said non-contract fund data in the step of electronically determining the sum when said non-contract fund data does not exceed said predetermined threshold.

3. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 1 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-contract fund data and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess contract funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess contract funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

4. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

5. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all contract funds for a respective beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said contract funds; and,

generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective beneficiary.

6. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 2 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-contract fund data and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess contract funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess contract funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

7. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 6 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

8. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 7 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all contract funds for a respective beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said contract funds; and,

generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective beneficiary.

9. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically inputting and storing annuity fund data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data that includes, for at least one annuity fund, a subset of annuity beneficiary data approved for said one annuity fund, and banking institution data;

electronically inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary;

electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions, plus all non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds held by said one banking institution for said single annuity beneficiary and represented by corresponding data, exceeds said predetermined fund limit;

for said single annuity beneficiary which is not included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;

for said single annuity beneficiary which is included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a second deposit instrument identified with another annuity beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single annuity beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,

electronically determining the excess annuity funds, inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.

10. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of electronically inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds data above said predetermined threshold includes the step of providing a predetermined fund threshold which is greater than or equal to zero and the method includes the step of electronically substituting said predetermined threshold for said non-annuity and unqualified annuity fund data in the step of electronically determining the sum when said fund data does not exceed said predetermined threshold.

11. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 9 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess annuity, funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

12. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 9 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

13. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 9 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all annuity funds for a respective annuity beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified annuity funds; and, generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective annuity beneficiary.

14. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 10 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess annuity funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

15. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 14 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

16. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 15 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all annuity funds for a respective annuity beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified annuity funds; and,

generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective annuity beneficiary.

17. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of

annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically inputting and storing invested funds data, annuity fund data which is a subset of said invested funds data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

electronically inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary;

electronically inputting and storing invested funds data for each annuity beneficiary;

electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while accounting for said predetermined threshold and respective non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds held by said one banking institution for said single annuity beneficiary;

electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;

electronically determining the excess annuity funds plus non-annuity and unqualified annuity funds over said predetermined fund limit, inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds; and,

electronically computing and monitoring a total value representing the sum of said annuity funds and said invested funds for each said annuity beneficiary.

18. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 17 including the step of:

electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of realized earnings from said invested funds into said annuity funds for each respective annuity beneficiary; and,

repeating the step of electronically determining the sum of all annuity funds and transferring the excess thereof.

19. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, annuity beneficiary data, annuity fund data, and banking institution data;

via said computer system:

- (a) electronically inputting and storing annuity fund data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data that includes, for at least one annuity fund, a subset of annuity beneficiary data approved for said one annuity fund, and banking institution data;
 - (b) electronically inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary;
 - (c) electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while accounting for said non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds in step (b);
 - (d) electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to one of a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions and a second deposit instrument identified with another annuity beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single annuity beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,
 - (e) electronically determining the excess annuity funds, inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.
20. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:
- providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, annuity beneficiary data, annuity fund data, and banking institution data;
- via said computer system:
- (a) electronically inputting and storing annuity fund data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data that includes, for at least one annuity fund, a subset of annuity beneficiary data approved for said one annuity fund, and banking institution data;
 - (b) electronically inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary;
 - (c) electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions, plus all non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds held by said one banking institution for said single annuity beneficiary and represented by corresponding data, exceeds said predetermined fund limit;
 - (d) for said single annuity beneficiary which is not included in said approved subset, electronically com-

- manding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;
 - (e) for said single annuity beneficiary which is included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a second deposit instrument identified with another annuity beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single annuity beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,
 - (f) electronically determining the excess annuity funds, inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds.
21. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of annuities, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said annuities, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:
- providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, annuity beneficiary data, annuity fund data, and banking institution data;
- via said computer system:
- (a) electronically inputting and storing invested funds data, annuity fund data which is a subset of said invested funds data, associated customer data, annuity beneficiary data, and banking institution data;
 - (b) electronically inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each annuity beneficiary;
 - (c) electronically inputting and storing invested funds data for each annuity beneficiary;
 - (d) electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary, and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while accounting for data identified in step (b) for said single annuity beneficiary;
 - (e) electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all excess annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;
 - (f) electronically determining the excess annuity funds plus non-annuity and unqualified annuity funds over said predetermined fund limit, inputting and storing non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold

certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds; and,

(g) electronically computing and monitoring a total value representing the sum of said annuity funds and said invested funds for each said annuity beneficiary. 5

22. A computer-based system for electronically processing annuity funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based system comprising: 10

means for electronically inputting and storing annuity fund, non-annuity fund and unqualified annuity fund data and associated annuity beneficiary data that includes, for at least one annuity fund, a subset of annuity beneficiary data approved for said one annuity fund, associated customer data, and banking institution data; 15

means for identifying, electronically labeling and maintaining an electronic list of all banking institutions which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds above a predetermined threshold for each annuity beneficiary; 20

means for electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while taking into account non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds above said predetermined threshold; 25

means for electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said predetermined fund limit to one of a first deposit instrument issued by another banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions and a second deposit instrument identified with another annuity beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single annuity beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and, 30

means for electronically determining excess funds over said predetermined fund limit, electronically inputting non-annuity fund and unqualified annuity fund data and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds. 35

23. A computer-based system for electronically processing annuity funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based system comprising: 40

means for electronically inputting and storing invested funds data, annuity fund data which is a subset of said invested funds data, non-annuity fund and unqualified annuity, fund data and associated annuity beneficiary data, associated customer data, and banking institution data; 45

means for identifying, electronically labeling and maintaining an electronic list of all banking institutions 50

which hold non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds above a predetermined threshold for each annuity beneficiary;

means for electronically monitoring invested funds data for each annuity beneficiary;

means for electronically determining whether the sum of all annuity funds, identified with a single annuity beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while taking into account non-annuity funds and unqualified annuity funds above said predetermined threshold; 5

means for electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all annuity funds identified with said single annuity beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said predetermined fund limit to a deposit instrument issued by another banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; 10

means for electronically determining excess funds over said predetermined fund limit, electronically inputting non-annuity fund and unqualified annuity fund data and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding the transfer of excess annuity funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all annuity beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified annuity funds; and, 15

means for computing and monitoring a total value representing the sum of said annuity funds and said invested funds for each annuity beneficiary. 20

24. A computer-based system for electronically processing as claimed in claim 23 including: 25

means for electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of realized earnings from said invested funds into said annuity funds for each respective annuity beneficiary. 30

25. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of: 35

electronically inputting and storing life fund data, associated customer data, life beneficiary data that includes, for at least one life fund, a subset of life beneficiary data approved for said one life fund, and banking institution data; 40

electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each life beneficiary; 45

electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions, plus all non-life funds and unqualified life funds held by said one banking institution for said single life beneficiary and represented by corresponding data, exceeds said predetermined fund limit; 50

electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds identified with said single life ben- 55

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eficiary and designated for said one banking institution to one of a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions and a second deposit instrument identified with another life beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single life beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and, electronically determining the excess life funds, inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds.

26. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 25 wherein the step of electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above said predetermined threshold includes the step of providing a predetermined fund threshold which is greater than or equal to zero and the method includes the step of electronically substituting said predetermined threshold for said non-life and unqualified life fund data in the step of electronically determining the sum when said fund data does not exceed said predetermined threshold.

27. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 25 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess life funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

28. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 25 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

29. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 25 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all life funds for a respective life beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified life funds; and,

generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective life beneficiary.

30. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 26 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess life funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

31. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 30 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;

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establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

32. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 31 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all life funds for a respective life beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified life funds; and,

generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective life beneficiary.

33. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically inputting and storing life fund data, associated customer data, life beneficiary data that includes, for at least one life fund, a subset of life beneficiary data approved for said one life fund, and banking institution data;

electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each life beneficiary;

electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions, plus all non-life funds and unqualified life funds held by said one banking institution for said single life beneficiary and represented by corresponding data, exceeds said predetermined fund limit;

for said single life beneficiary which is not included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;

for said single life beneficiary which is included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a second deposit instrument identified with another life beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single life beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,

electronically determining the excess life funds, inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds.

34. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 33 wherein the step of electronically inputting and storing non-life funds

and unqualified life funds data above said predetermined threshold includes the step of providing a predetermined fund threshold which is greater than or equal to zero and the method includes the step of electronically substituting said predetermined threshold for said non-life and unqualified life fund data in the step of electronically determining the sum when said fund data does not exceed said predetermined threshold.

35. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 33 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess life funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

36. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 33 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;
establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

37. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 33 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all life funds for a respective life beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified life funds; and,
generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective life beneficiary.

38. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 34 wherein the steps of inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, electronically determining excess life funds, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds includes the step of electronically utilizing data from a single banking institution.

39. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 38 including the steps of:

electronically inputting data regarding government established depositor's insurance limit value;
establishing said predetermined fund limit as one of said depositor's insurance limit value or a predetermined lower value.

40. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 39 including the steps of:

generating a periodic printed out report showing the sum of all life funds for a respective life beneficiary provided by a corresponding customer and which obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for said qualified life funds; and,
generating a supplemental printed out report showing all banking institution data for each said respective life beneficiary.

41. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit

of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

electronically inputting and storing invested funds data, life fund data which is a subset of said invested funds data, associated customer data, life beneficiary data, and banking institution data;

electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each life beneficiary;

electronically inputting and storing invested funds data for each life beneficiary;

electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while accounting for said predetermined threshold and respective non-life funds and unqualified life funds held by said one banking institution for said single life beneficiary;

electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;

electronically determining the excess life funds plus non-life and unqualified life funds over said predetermined fund limit, inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds; and,

electronically computing and monitoring a total value representing the sum of said life funds and said invested funds for each said life beneficiary.

42. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data as claimed in claim 41 including the step of:

electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of realized earnings from said invested funds into said life funds for each respective life beneficiary; and,

repeating the step of electronically determining the sum of all life funds and transferring the excess thereof.

43. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, life beneficiary data, life fund data, and banking institution data;

via said computer system:

(a) electronically inputting and storing life fund data, associated customer data, life beneficiary data that includes, for at least one life fund, a subset of life

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beneficiary data approved for said one life fund, and banking institution data;

- (b) electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each life beneficiary;
- (c) electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while accounting for said non-life funds and unqualified life funds in step (b);
- (d) electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to one of a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions and a second deposit instrument identified with another life beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single life beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,
- (e) electronically determining the excess life funds, inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds.

44. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, life beneficiary data, life fund data, and banking institution data;

via said computer system:

- (a) electronically inputting and storing life fund data, associated customer data, life beneficiary data that includes, for at least one life fund, a subset of life beneficiary data approved for said one life fund, and banking institution data;
- (b) electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each life beneficiary;
- (c) electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions, plus all non-life funds and unqualified life funds held by said one banking institution for said single life beneficiary and represented by corresponding data, exceeds said predetermined fund limit;
- (d) for said single life beneficiary which is not included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one

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banking institution to a first deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;

- (e) for said single life beneficiary which is included in said approved subset, electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a second deposit instrument identified with another life beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single life beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,
- (f) electronically determining the excess life funds, inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds.

45. A computer-based method for electronically processing transactional data and monitoring funds for a plurality of life insurance contracts, purchased by a plurality of customers funding said life insurance contracts, to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through at least one of a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer system for the input, output, correlation and storage of customer data, life beneficiary data, life fund data, and banking institution data;

via said computer system:

- (a) electronically inputting and storing invested funds data, life fund data which is a subset of said invested funds data, associated customer data, life beneficiary data, and banking institution data;
- (b) electronically inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds data above a predetermined threshold held in banking institutions for each life beneficiary;
- (c) electronically inputting and storing invested funds data for each life beneficiary;
- (d) electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while accounting for data identified in step (b) for said single life beneficiary;
- (e) electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all excess life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution to a deposit instrument issued by another one of said plurality of banking institutions;
- (f) electronically determining the excess life funds plus non-life and unqualified life funds over said predetermined fund limit, inputting and storing non-life funds and unqualified life funds and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds; and,
- (g) electronically computing and monitoring a total value representing the sum of said life funds and said invested funds for each said life beneficiary.

46. A computer-based system for electronically processing life funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based system comprising:

means for electronically inputting and storing life fund, non-life fund and unqualified life fund data and associated life beneficiary data that includes, for at least one life fund, a subset of life beneficiary data approved for said one life fund, associated customer data, and banking institution data;

means for identifying, electronically labeling and maintaining an electronic list of all banking institutions which hold non-life funds and unqualified life funds above a predetermined threshold for each life beneficiary;

means for electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while taking into account non-life funds and unqualified life funds above said predetermined threshold;

means for electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said predetermined fund limit to one of a first deposit instrument issued by another banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions and a second deposit instrument

identified with another life beneficiary that is part of the approved subset with said single life beneficiary and issued by said one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions; and,

means for electronically determining excess funds over said predetermined fund limit, electronically inputting non-life fund and unqualified life fund data and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds.

47. A computer-based system for electronically processing life funds to obtain the benefit of depositor's insurance available through a plurality of federally approved banking

institutions, said depositor's insurance protecting funds less than a predetermined fund limit, said computer-based system comprising:

means for electronically inputting and storing invested funds data, life fund data which is a subset of said invested funds data, non-life fund and unqualified life fund data and associated life beneficiary data, associated customer data, and banking institution data;

means for identifying, electronically labeling and maintaining an electronic list of all banking institutions which hold non-life funds and unqualified life funds above a predetermined threshold for each life beneficiary;

means for electronically monitoring invested funds data for each life beneficiary;

means for electronically determining whether the sum of all life funds, identified with a single life beneficiary and designated for certificates of deposit issued by one banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions exceeds said predetermined fund limit while taking into account non-life funds and unqualified life funds above said predetermined threshold;

means for electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of all life funds identified with said single life beneficiary and designated for said one banking institution in excess of said predetermined fund limit to a deposit instrument issued by another banking institution of said plurality of banking institutions;

means for electronically determining excess funds over said predetermined fund limit, electronically inputting non-life fund and unqualified life fund data and related banking institution data, and electronically commanding the transfer of excess life funds, for all banking institutions designated to hold certificates of deposit for all life beneficiaries to obtain the benefit of said depositor's insurance for qualified life funds; and,

means for computing and monitoring a total value representing the sum of said life funds and said invested funds for each life beneficiary.

48. A computer-based system for electronically processing as claimed in claim 47 including: means for electronically commanding and ordering the transfer of realized earnings from said invested funds into said life funds for each respective life beneficiary.

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